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GREAT BRITAIN AND THE BELLIGERENTS.

THE position of Great Britain, in her character of neutral, does not become more comfortable as time and the war progress. Indeed, it waxes less and less so; and if any one, besides the parties immediately concerned, has an interest in seeing the conflict brought to a close, it must be the people of this country, who suffer by it in a variety of ways, and in a degree second only to the belligerents themselves. Our trade is crippled, some of our best markets are closed to us,

the buyers of the goods we have to dispose of being unable to purchase, and the production of articles we usually buy being suspended. Many of our fellow-subjects, having taken up their abode, permanently or temporarily, in France and in Germany, are seriously inconvenienced, and even gravely imperilled. Our migratory population, innocent pleasure-seekers and holiday-makers, have had their usual summer and autumn haunts closed to them, and have been much annoyed thereby.

But these are not the worst features of the case. Besides being injured and inconvenienced, we are abused to boot; and that not by one side only, but by both. Agreed in nothing else, France and Germany concur in making Great Britain the subject of railing, sneering, taunting, depreciation, contumely, and abuse of all kinds, and for all sorts of reasons; nay, for perfectly conflicting reasons. Frenchmen revile us for standing by and seeing them pushed to great straits, their capital in peril of destruction, and their very national



"AMY ROBSART" AT DRURY-LANE THEATRE: THE FATE OF VARNEY.

life endangered; while Germans vituperate us for attempting to do what the French blame us for not doing! The French complain that we are content, from a selfish and ignoble love of our own safety, to permit the Germans to carry their rights of conquest to unwarrantable lengths; and the Germans complain that we harbour, from equally selfish and ignoble motives, a wish to hinder them of the legitimate fruits of their efforts, and, by preventing them from annexing French territory, to deprive them of those guarantees for future safety to which they are fairly entitled. All this, we think, is very hard; and is all the more so, that it is, we fear, in vain to attempt to convince either French or Germans that they do us injustice, or to show that their respective charges are mutually destructive of each other. Taunts are still hurled at us by both; and insult is added to injustice by our being constantly told that our opinions are held as of no value, and that our influence is *nil*, at the very moment that we are being appealed to for our good opinion and called upon to exert our influence. If British opinion be worthless, why consult it? If British influence be naught, why invoke it? These questions, one would think, ought to suggest themselves to the minds of our foreign friends; and, seeing that they have no answer to give to such queries, induce them to desist from railing and complaint. But the truth is—and this must be our consolation, best-abused people in Europe as we are—that we have endeavoured to act fairly towards both belligerents, while wisely taking care of ourselves, and therefore have succeeded in contenting neither. We are neutrals, siding with neither party, and giving aid to none, or affording it impartially to both. But this does not suffice; it is not neutrality but partisanship that is wanted; and, as we cannot and will not yield that, we must, we suppose, be content to grin and bear the hard things that are said of us.

While, however, we are willing to endure the splenetic contradictions and revilings of sensitive and irritable belligerents—revilings which we hope and believe will be as evanescent as they are splenetic—we cannot consent to admit tacitly or otherwise the introduction of doctrines into international law that have no warrant save the wishes of one or other of the belligerent nations. On the one hand, we cannot accept the French dictum that we or any other neutral people are bound to interpose with the view of saving them and their capital city from the retribution they wantonly provoked, merely because they think fit to call themselves the pioneers of progress and to dub Paris the centre and temple of civilisation. Paris is beautiful, and we should be loth to see her beauty marred. But that beauty does not make her sacred or confer upon her and the nation she represents immunity from the chastisement that cometh of wrong-doing. Frenchmen in general and Parisians in particular, if they seize the sword, must make up their minds to run the risk of perishing by the sword; if they invoke war, they must submit to endure its consequences, great as their national traditions and beautiful as their capital city may be. Great things and beautiful things have suffered—nay, been destroyed—by war ere now, and with less of culpability than now lies at the door of France and of Paris. And, what is more, Frenchmen and French armies have been concerned—unnecessarily concerned—in bringing destruction on things greater, more beautiful, and more rare than even Paris can boast. The traditions of Rome were grander, and the monuments of Rome were more valuable and beautiful, than even those of France and Paris; yet French armies took part in humbling Roman pride, and French artillery has been employed in bombarding Rome and in destroying her unreplaceable treasures of art. Paris, if, unhappily, she should be partially injured by German shot and shell, might—and probably would—be rebuilt; but Rome Republican and Rome Imperial can never be restored; and France helped to make her the wilderness of ruin she now is. We say not these things to justify, much less to encourage, the destruction of Paris, if destruction, or even serious damage, be really impending over her; but to show Frenchmen that, if they possess things beautiful and precious, they should be careful how they expose them to danger; if they dread the consequences of war, they should be chary as to how they provoke it; if they claim immunity for themselves and their belongings, they should be the first to accord immunity to others; and that, if new laws of war and new restrictions on the rights of conquest are to be inaugurated for the benefit of France, she ought to have been the first to set an example of moderation and self-denial—which she notoriously did not, and is, therefore, not in a position to invoke principles on which she herself has not acted heretofore, and on which she certainly would not have acted now had success crowned her arms.

And the same remarks apply, as regards other matters, to the Germans and their complaints about the conduct of England as a neutral Power: they are not entitled to call upon us to practise what they themselves refused to do in like case. Count Bernstorff has returned to the question of British neutrality; and, as it seems to us, has not bettered his position by the new line of argument he has adopted. He has now abandoned the "benevolent neutrality" theory, and falls back upon the legal bearings of the case: difficult ground for any man to take, but most difficult of all for a foreigner of non-legal training; and the result is, that he lands himself in a judicial quagmire. He quotes certain enactments which say that the exportation of munitions may be prohibited by Royal proclamation or by order in Council; and he jumps to the conclusion that because they *may*, they *must*—which does not at all follow. Then he cites the Customs Regulation Act, and claims that, under its provisions, Government is bound to pro-

hibit the exportation of arms and other warlike stores; but he forgets, or does not know, that that act was designed for our own protection, not that of others—that it was intended to be put into operation only when we ourselves were at war, and as regards all countries whatever, not merely as touching one or more. The enforcement of that Act is optional; and, if put in operation at all, its effect must be to stop exportation of arms entirely. This was its design, and this is the interpretation put upon the Act by high legal authorities, such as the present and the last High Chancellors of England, Lord Hatherley and Lord Cairns. Moreover, Count Bernstorff confounds international law, or the mutual and universal agreements of all nations—with municipal law, or the domestic regulations of particular States; and seems to fancy that if one State passes a law for its own protection and convenience, any other State may call for the enforcement of that law—when it may suit the purposes of that other State to demand such enforcement. Nor is Count Bernstorff more happy in citing precedents than in quoting statutes. He recalls a transaction between England and Denmark that took place in 1848; on which occasion, it seems, England prohibited the export of warlike munitions on the demand of Denmark; but again he forgets that Denmark made the demand, and England complied with it, not in virtue of any law, international or municipal, but in fulfilment of a positive treaty to that effect, bearing the date of 1670. The fact that the Danish Minister, Count Reventlow, went back to this old treaty of two hundred years ago, shows conclusively that there existed no law, international or municipal, to which he could appeal; because, if there had, he need not have invoked that ancient treaty obligation. The rule followed in that case applies, but inversely, to the subject of coal now, and puts the German demands out of court so far as that article is concerned. We are engaged by treaty with France *not* to prohibit the exportation of coals; and therefore, so long as that treaty engagement lasts, we cannot prohibit their exportation, whoever may benefit or whoever may suffer from the traffic.

But look at the matter of arms. The manufacture of rifles, cannon, cartridges, shells, and so forth, is an ordinary and legitimate branch of British industry; and their exportation and sale is a legitimate element of British commerce, as their manufacture and sale are legitimate elements of the industry and commerce of Belgium and of Germany itself. Now, by what rule of natural justice and right are England, and Belgium, and Germany to be called upon to suspend that industry, and ruin those engaged in it, because some other nation, or nations, has a quarrel on hand, and may possibly suffer damage? And, furthermore, why should any nation be required not only to submit to an injury to suit another's convenience, but be made the instrument of its own damage?—in other words, why should a neutral be required to do a belligerent's proper work, and protect that belligerent's interests to the neutral's positive disadvantage? A belligerent may declare certain articles to be contraband of war, and may hinder his antagonist from obtaining supplies thereof from neutral sources if he can; but it is for the belligerent, not for neutrals, to make such a declaration effective. Yet that Great Britain should do this work for Germany is precisely what Count Bernstorff asks; he demands in effect, if not in absolute terms, that England should not only discontinue selling arms to France, but that she shall take care that no arms made in England shall pass into the hands of Germany's foes. That was not the course followed by Prussia in 1854-5; she then not only sold arms of her own manufacture to England's enemy, but traded in (and made profit by) arms fabricated elsewhere. Prussia, consequently—and Germany as represented by Prussia—not having made the sale of arms to a belligerent illegal, or contrary to international pact, when it suited her to traffic in them, is not entitled to call upon Great Britain to discontinue traffic in these articles now merely because Germany's enemy may benefit and Germany may suffer by the trade. When she has acknowledged and acted upon such a rule to her own disadvantage, she may be entitled to call upon others to do so likewise, but not till then.

Whether or not it be desirable to define more strictly the rules regulating traffic in contraband of war, it is clear that such a task ought to be undertaken in a time of peace, not amid the excitement of war; and that to make changes, in either international or municipal law, to suit the views of a particular belligerent, or to meet special emergencies, is impossible.

"AMY ROBSART."

If everybody has not yet seen "Amy Robsart" at Drury Lane, we suppose there are few persons of reading age and tastes who are not familiar with "Kenilworth," and the tragic scene by which Sir Walter's famous romance attains its catastrophe. Mr. Andrew Halliday, in his dramatic version of the story now being performed at Old Drury, has followed his great countryman with becoming reverence, and has only ventured on one important departure from the incidents of the novel. It will be easily divined that this is the dénouement of the story. In short, he has not had the heart to break the neck of his heroine by the machinations of the detested Varney, but, on the contrary, has allowed the murderer to become the victim of his own scheme, while his heroine is saved and, presumptively, made happy. In this, though the peculiar mode of bringing about the result is new, he follows the earlier playwrights, who, both at Drury Lane and its then great rival Covent Garden, seized upon the creations of the "Great Unknown" with pretty much the hot haste and unscrupulous audacity of which Dickens, in more recent times, so bitterly complained. So far, however, Mr. Halliday believes himself to be not so much varying the incidents of the novel, as introducing a change necessitated by its conversion into a play; and he "would fain (he says) persuade himself that Scott himself would have taken the same course had he written a play instead of a novel." In all this, perhaps, he adopts the view rather of

our own day than that of Scott, when dramatists of literary pretensions certainly were not afraid of a tragic conclusion; but the tastes of our time justify him in following his predecessors in not making the violent death of the beautiful and trusting wife of Leicester the dénouement of his play. Modern playgoers are a tender-hearted race, and perhaps Mr. Halliday's best defence is that the dramatist who should end "Kenilworth" with the tragic incident of the novel would certainly not produce a popular drama. He has accordingly arranged that Varney shall be precipitated from a bridge, instead of the lovely Amy being enticed upon the fatal trapdoor and immolated there.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

In consequence of the disorganised state of the country, the general elections for a Constituent Assembly have been further adjourned.

M. de Kératry has arrived in the Department du Nord by balloon.

It is said that the Commandant of Toulon has 200,000 chassapots in his custody, and that he refuses to give them up till he receives an order from the ex-Emperor.

The Minister of Finance has called the serious attention of his colleagues to the necessity of enabling the national exchequer to meet the exigencies of the time. Economies are to be made everywhere, except in the War Department. There is, first of all, the £1,068,000 of the Civil List and of the Princes and Princesses of the Imperial family, which will no longer be paid. The abolition of the Senate saves £220,000, and that of the Council of State £60,000. The new Councillors of State will receive only £6000, and the Masters of Requests will be reduced to £320. The salaries of prefects of the first class are reduced to £520, those of the second class to £480, and the third class to £400. The sub-prefects will receive £240, £200, and £160, according to class. The Ministers propose the reduction of their own salaries to £2000. The directors-general will have £600, instead of £1000, and the sub-directors £320 or £400. The members of the Government of the National Defence will receive no pay.

A correspondent at Tours says that a balloon despatch from Marshal Bazaine has been received by the French Government, giving an explanation of the appearance of General Bourbaki at Chiselhurst. The Empress, it is stated, wished the General to conduct the Prince Imperial to Metz in order that he might remain there until the time came for arranging a peace on the basis of the cession of Alsace and Lorraine, the abdication of the Emperor, the restoration of the dynasty with the Prince as Napoleon IV., and the Empress herself as Regent.

According to the *Bund* of Berne, France is threatened with a loss of territory in her African colony as well as at home. An insurrection is said to have broken out in Algeria, and in the province of Constantine it is reported to be supported by many powerful tribes. A Vienna paper publishes the same intelligence, and says that the German victories in France, and the capture of the Emperor Napoleon and Marshal M'Mahon, have excited disaffection even among those tribes which were believed to be the most loyal.

The *Guerre*, published at Brest, says that the Lafayette brought from New York 150,000 six-barrelled guns, breechloaders, and 6,000,000 cartridges for the same, 150 volunteers, and a quantity of revolvers and sabre-bayonets. Another French paper adds that this vessel brought four millions and a half pounds of biscuit, supplied by one of the first houses in New York.

The account given of the present state of the town of Nancy recalls the hardships Venice underwent during the Austrian occupation. The presence of the Prussians is endured; but no opportunity is lost of letting them know how heartily they are detested by the inhabitants. Ladies dress only in black; men go out as little as possible; and the fine streets of Nancy are trodden only by those whose daily toil compels them to leave their homes and by a few individuals who read or copy the news of the war written up in German at the corners of the streets, in order to circulate translations of the same in the houses, with commentaries of which the Germans can easily divine the tendency.

ITALY.

The King received the members of the Roman deputation who conveyed to Florence the result of the plebiscite on Sunday night. His Majesty was accompanied by Prince Humbert and Princess Margherita. The King's official answer announced his grateful acceptance of the votes of the Romans, and his purpose, as a Monarch and as a Catholic, to render secure the freedom of the Church and the spiritual independence of the Holy Father. A Royal decree was promulgated on Sunday, declaring that Rome and the Roman provinces constitute an integral part of the kingdom of Italy. The Pope preserves his dignities and the inviolability of his personal prerogatives as Sovereign. A law will be passed settling the conditions which are to guarantee the territorial freedom and independence of the Pope, and the free exercise of his spiritual authority. Another decree has been published, appointing General della Marmora Lieutenant-Governor of the Roman provinces. A decree has been promulgated at Rome introducing there the laws of the kingdom. The King has signed a general amnesty for political crimes.

General la Marmora has arrived in Rome as the King's Lieutenant-Governor, and addressed a proclamation to the people, in which he says that their plebiscite splendidly crowns the national edifice. The Italian Government, he adds, wishes the Pope to exercise his rights in all freedom as the head of the Church.

SPAIN.

In last Saturday's sitting of the Permanent Committee of the Cortes, Senor Sagasta, in answer to a question, said that, on account of the excitement in France, the Spanish Government had pointed out to England and Russia the propriety of a friendly mediation in favour of peace. Russia and England answered that they could not interfere; but the latter Government announced that it would use all its influence to facilitate an interview between Count Bismarck and M. Jules Favre. After this France solicited the direct mediation of Spain, but the Spanish Government refused to interfere.

GERMANY.

The Prussian Diet will meet towards the end of November, and the North German Diet is, if possible, to assemble before that date, in order to make provision for the increased requirements of the war and to take into consideration the new aspect of the German question. According to the *Provincial Correspondence*, negotiations are in progress between the Governments of Germany which are likely to lead to a speedy and satisfactory settlement. Baden, Wurtemberg, and Southern Hesse have signified their intention to join the North German Confederacy and ratify its Constitution, with some slight modifications. The King of Bavaria still holds back.

The Berlin Chamber of Commerce has sent a memorandum to the Chancellor of the Confederation respecting the indemnity to be demanded by Germany of France. The Chamber hopes that the compensation will be calculated, not only upon the loss sustained in ships and their cargoes captured by the French, but also on the ships and cargoes detained in German ports and otherwise lying idle through fear of capture.

The following Prussian memorandum has been communicated to the Powers:—

The terms of the armistice communicated to M. Jules Favre, and destined to usher in an attempt to restore order in France, have been rejected by him and his colleagues, who have resolved on the continuation of a struggle which, after all that has happened, must be regarded as hopeless by the French nation. Since the rejection of our terms any chances of victory France may have had in this perilous war must have considerably diminished. Toul and Strasbourg have fallen, Paris is closely invested, and the German troops have penetrated to Loire. The con-

strategic forces so long detained by the two conquered fortresses are now, therefore, free for employment in another direction. France will have to bear the consequences of the resolution taken by her rulers to engage in a struggle *à l'outrance*. Her sacrifices will necessarily increase, and the destruction of her social system will be all but inevitable. The commander of the German army regrets his inability to prevent this; but he clearly foresees the results of the resistance recklessly determined upon by the rulers of France, and deems it necessary to draw attention to one point in particular—that is the state of Paris. The two more important engagements before the capital—those of the 19th and 30th of September—in which the most effective portion of the enemy's forces did not succeed in repulsing even the front line of the investing troops, justify the conclusion that sooner or later Paris must fall. In the event of the capitulation being put off by the Provisional Government till the want of provisions compels the surrender, terrible consequences will ensue. The absurd destruction of railways, bridges, and canals within a certain distance of Paris has not stayed the progress of the German armies for a moment; and all communications by land and water necessary for our purposes have been restored in a very short period. But we have only restored what we require for the military objects we have in view, and thus have demolished to interrupt easy communication between capital and provinces for a long time to come. The German commander in the case above mentioned will find it absolutely impossible to provision a population of nearly two millions even for a single day. Neither will the neighbourhood of Paris for a distance of many marches supply any means of succouring the Parisians, all that there is in it being indispensably required for the troops. Nor shall we be able to remove a portion of the population by the country roads, as we have no available means of transport. The inevitable consequence of this will be that hundreds of thousands will starve. The French rulers cannot but foresee this as clearly as ourselves. We can only fight out the quarrel forced upon us, but those who bring on such extreme consequences will be responsible for them.

RUSSIA.

The reorganisation which was undertaken in 1869 of the system of calling out the troops and of granting furlough to the reserve has lately been completed, and the placing of the army at its full strength can now be completed with the least possible delay. The War Office has issued new regulations for the expeditious calling in of men on furlough. The Hospital Board has drawn up new orders for the administration of the Military Sanitary Department in time of war. The Odessa Commander-in-Chief suggests that hospital tents should be adopted, as in the Prussian army. The Legislative Commission is engaged in revising rules for pensioning military surgeons and hospital attendants. The Artillery Board has been ordered to revise the regulations for the drill and practice of their arm.

THE UNITED STATES.

President Grant has issued a proclamation denying the use of American harbours or waters to armed vessels of either of the European belligerents for preparing hostile expeditions or as points of observation upon opponents' vessels, and ordering that no armed ship should remain more than twenty-four hours in any American harbours, except under stress of weather, for provisions or repairs. The proclamation requires that twenty-four hours' delay in the departure of an armed ship shall be enforced where an opponent's vessel has left. It also limits the amount of supplies to be furnished.

CANADA.

A telegram from Toronto of last Saturday's date says that the French halfbreeds at the Red River are showing a disposition to become troublesome. Parties of them are mustering near St. Joseph and Pembina.

PERU.

By the West India mail we have news of the coolie revolts in Peru. The coolies had massacred the white people on various plantations, and attempted to sack the town of Barranca. They were, however, repulsed, and had taken refuge in the mountains.

CHINA AND JAPAN.

The *Times* correspondent at Shanghai telegraphs on Sept. 22:—"The Catholic church has been destroyed at Newchwang, and the impression gains ground daily that there is no prospect of a peaceful settlement of the Tien-Tsin affair. The party in favour of war measures is more powerful than Prince Kung and the peace party, and it is feared that the former will be greatly strengthened when the news of the French reverses during the present war becomes known. Much anxiety is felt by the Europeans here, and the *North China Herald* advocates the forwarding of troops from India for the protection of the lives and property of foreigners—the latter in this city alone being estimated at fifteen millions sterling." The news received by the Foreign Office four days later than this says that all was quiet at Tien-Tsin.

From Japan we hear that a small steamer, the *City of Jeddo*, when leaving Jeddo for Yokohama, with 140 passengers on board, ten of whom were Europeans, exploded and immediately foundered. Of the Europeans, five were killed and five wounded, among the former were the Rev. E. Cowes, his wife and child, and their European servant.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

The diamond excitement at the Cape has been increased by the discovery of a diamond of 293 carats by a Mr. Innes. But the *Albion Observer* has a report which throws the Innes diamond, "magnificent gem" though it be, into the shade, for it has heard that Captain Edwards has discovered a diamond of 180 carats, valued at £100,000. The arrivals at the fields are put down at 1000 persons a week.

THE FOUNDATION-STONES of two new wings to the Printers' Pension, Almshouses, and Orphan Asylum at Wood-green, Tottenham, were laid last Saturday. When completed the new buildings will afford accommodation for a dozen more inmates of the institution.

RAGGED-SCHOOL WORK IN SPITALFIELDS.—The Lord Mayor and the new Sheriff (Alderman Owsen and Mr. Jones) went in semi-state, on Tuesday night, to assist in the celebration attending the completion of the King Edward Ragged and Industrial Schools and Eastern Refuge for Girls, Brick-lane, Spitalfields. The large room was cheerfully decorated, and filled to overflowing by a sympathetic audience. The history of the undertaking, as told by the report read by Mr. G. H. Lloyd, the hon. sec., and illustrated by anecdotes from various speakers, was the old tale of little causes and great results. The work was begun in a dilapidated stable, at a time when the neighbourhood—not even now above reproach from a sanitary point of view—was an undrained abode of filth, poverty, and crime. For years the committee had to fight their way inch by inch, contending not only with the passive opposition of the inhabitants whose children they sought to benefit, but the active hostility of certain "vested interests" which feared a downfall of the system by which they thrived. The task was not abandoned, however. By little and little the wanderer and the homeless were brought in, the outcast was reclaimed, an agitation was set on foot to improve the ill-paved streets and alleys, until at last the sympathies of the philanthropic were fairly enlisted. The society was able to point with pardonable pride at the light and air which make the immediate neighbourhood of the schools a bright spot in a dark place, and to claim the honour of causing to vanish from the faces of the poor children around the wolfish look of hunger and vice by which they were long known. Naturally, there were not many amongst the audience who had attended the first meeting, presided over in the stable by Lord Shaftesbury; but exceptional mention was made of the Rev. W. Tyler and Mr. H. R. Williams, the treasurer. Seated in the room and upon the platform were also prosperous citizens who, themselves once ragged scholars, owe their escape from misery to the King Edward Ragged and Industrial Schools. The proceedings, under the circumstances, were jubilant. The Lord Mayor, in a speech characteristically brief and to the point, congratulated the friends of the movement upon what they had done, expressed his approval of the principle of ragged schools, and spoke with satisfaction of the prospects of the new education law. From the subsequent speakers it was gathered that the schools are built upon a freehold worth £6000, and are now the largest and best in the metropolis. There are a girls' refuge, through whose agency 200 girls have been received, educated, clothed, fed, and placed out at service; a boys' day school, a girls' and infant school, an evening school, a Sunday school, a penny bank, a loan library and a benevolent fund, with all requisite appliances for an industrial establishment. The buildings have a handsome exterior, and the dormitories, kitchen, scullery, and school-rooms are models of comfort and neatness. There is an isolated infirmary for cases of infectious disease. The good done by this institution may be guessed from the statement that there are 1000 children attending it to receive the instruction and encouragement of fifty voluntary and twelve paid teachers. During the proceedings a neat tablet, in commemoration of the opening of the new wing, was unveiled by the Lord Mayor.

BRITISH NEUTRALITY.

COUNT BERNSTORFF has addressed to Lord Granville a further "remonstrance" on the subject of the export of munitions of war from this country to France, which is curious for this reason if for no other, that it disclaims the "benevolent neutrality" theory, of which, but for Count Bernstorff, the world would probably never have heard. As will be seen from the subjoined abstract of his despatch, the North German Ambassador now rests his case mainly on alleged omissions in the enforcement of our municipal law—a matter regarding which, we think, Government ought to be exceedingly chary of tolerating foreign interference. In this document, which bears the date of last Saturday, Count Bernstorff tells Lord Granville that he has delayed answering him only because he hoped the conclusion of peace might have rendered an answer unnecessary, as he would have much preferred to discontinue the controversy. As, however, the hope of peace has disappeared for the present, he feels bound to reply. The answer which he makes divides itself into two parts—a complaint that the attitude of the British Government in the dispute has changed, and an endeavour to prove that the attitude it has taken up is unjustifiable either by English municipal or by international law. What Count Bernstorff says in effect is that up to Sept. 13 Earl Granville had never questioned the German position that the Government ought to prevent the export of articles contraband of war. In answer to numerous complaints, the Foreign Minister had asked for proofs, but none of his replies contained a positive statement to the effect that her Britannic Majesty's Government regarded the traffic in contraband of war compatible with their neutrality, and that they could not interfere. "On the contrary," says Count Bernstorff, "it has been repeatedly left to me to search after particular cases with the means at my disposal, in order to bring them under the notice of her Majesty's Government." He proceeds to say:—

After I had succeeded by my notes of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 6th, 7th, 8th, and 9th ult. in bringing a series of irrefutable facts before her Britannic Majesty's Government, a sudden change took place. In your note of the 13th ult., while acknowledging the correctness of a large number of cases pointed out by me, your Excellency declared that the traffic, which had been quite openly carried on, was legitimate, and that the Customs authorities had no power to stop it. Had her Majesty's Government from the commencement of the discussion taken this standing point they would certainly not have induced me to institute the above inquiries, and far less would they have had reason to subject the correctness of my information to a practical test. I therefore consider myself justified in concluding that her Britannic Majesty's Government since the receipt of my memorandum has materially changed the position previously occupied in regard to our complaints. It was unavoidable that this change should be reflected in the answer to my memorandum penned under different conditions; for I had started with the supposition that the legal means at the disposal of the Executive had hitherto not been applied simply from motives of convenience. I had been under the impression that it would only be necessary to prove the serious extent of the supply of France with arms and ammunition on the part of England, in order to convince the British Government that the time had arrived to make use of their powers. I had therefore not entered upon a judicial examination of the question of English neutrality, not because I had reason to shun its discussion, but merely because I had hoped that by abstaining from it I should be bringing about a more rapid practical decision, and therefore considered it sufficient to restrict myself to the practical and political aspect of the question.

In answering Lord Granville's arguments contained in his Lordship's despatch of Sept. 15, Count Bernstorff starts by denying that he ever asked from England "a benevolent neutrality." On the contrary, he says:—"I have on the one hand merely given expression to my satisfaction that the public opinion had ranged itself on our side in this war wantonly thrust upon us, and had on the other hand combined with it the reflection how difficult it is to reconcile the faith in the practical value of public opinion with the neutrality policy actually pursued by her Britannic Majesty's Government." He has only wished a return from a lax neutrality, whereby one party is benefited, to a strict and really impartial neutrality.

For I am unable to admit that it is compatible with strict neutrality that French agents should be permitted to buy up in this country, under the eyes and with the cognisance of her Britannic Majesty's Government, many thousands of breechloaders, revolvers, and pistols, with the requisite ammunition, in order to arm therewith the French people, and make the formation of fresh army corps possible, after the regular armies of France have been defeated and surrounded.

Before proceeding to his main argument, Count Bernstorff draws Earl Granville's attention to the extent to which arms and ammunition are being exported from England to France:—

According to my information, which may be partly tested upon oath, if this should appear desirable, the number of firearms shipped from England to France since my memorandum of the 30th ult. is treble and fourfold the number of 40,000 announced by Count Palikao, and that a number of manufactures, especially in Birmingham and London, are working day and night for French agents and their men of straw. I am in possession of authenticated copies of contracts concluded between the French Government and English contractors. The events of the war have quite recently delivered into our hands an official letter of the present French Minister of War, dated the 18th ult., to a French officer at the French Embassy in London, and in which the then expected despatch of 25,000 Snider rifles is mentioned, and reference is made for the payment to the funds at the disposal of the French *Chargé d'Affaires* for the purchase of arms in general. In like manner authentic proofs lie before me that the export of firearms and ammunition to France has been thoroughly organised in some British ports.

Taking advantage of Lord Granville's own admission that the Executive has the power to prohibit the export of contraband of war, but that the practice is to make use of this right only in the interests of England, as in the case of self-defence, Count Bernstorff quotes a letter of the Duke of Wellington to Mr. Canning, dated Aug. 30, 1825, and reprinted in a London newspaper immediately "after the indiscretion of Count Palikao," which, he says, refutes this assumption, proving that England, as a neutral, has repeatedly prohibited the export of arms by an "Order in Council." In one part of the Duke's letter the words occur, "I am afraid, then, that the world will not entirely acquit us of at least not doing our utmost to prevent this breach of neutrality of which the Porte will accuse us."

Count Bernstorff quotes the Customs Consolidation Act, 1853, cap. 107, sec. 159, to prove that her Britannic Majesty's Government have at their disposal the means to put a stop to the traffic objected to without the necessity of introducing a new machinery of officials for the purpose. Some other sections of the same Act are referred to, and are held by the Ambassador to prove that only the right intention of her Majesty's Government is required. That our action in such matters varies from time to time is proved, he thinks, by the different language of two instructions issued to the customs authorities of the United Kingdom on June 2, 1848, and Sept. 8, 1870, respectively. In the first, which originated at the time of the Danish-German complications, Sir Charles Trevelyan, one of the secretaries to the Lords Commissioners of her Majesty's Treasury, informed the Commissioners of Customs in a Treasury minute that, if they should be satisfied that any arms or warlike stores were embarked to be sent from this country for the purpose of being employed in hostilities against the Danish Government, they were to give instructions to prevent the exportation. On the other hand, the present instructions, dated Sept. 8, are as follow:—

The board directs you, when it is supposed that arms and ammunition are being exported, to ascertain the fact, and, if so, what is the nature of the arms and ammunitions, and in what quantities, by whom, and to what destination, they are to be shipped; but you are not in any case to delay the shipment longer than is sufficient to obtain the above particulars.

After quoting from the French law for the sake of proving that it is not impossible for a Government to secure that articles cleared for a neutral port should really be delivered there, Count Bernstorff goes on to the behaviour of Prussia in the Crimean War, respecting which he still holds that if the complaints of England against Prussia at the time of the Crimean War were warranted, those of Germany against England at the present time are at least equally well founded.

In the course of his arguments on the international aspects of the question, the North German Ambassador says:—

The present controversy simply centres in the question whether the refusal of her Majesty's Government to prohibit the export of arms is not

at variance with the still unaltered general rules of international law regarding the duties of neutrals towards belligerents, and with the laws of this country not yet repealed by the Legislature for the better fulfilment of these duties. That such is the case I believe I have proved by the existing facts and the laws themselves.

The Ambassador thus concludes:—

As for the hope expressed by your Excellency, that the German people will in a cooler moment judge less severely the attitude of the Government of Great Britain in this question than now in the heat of action, I regret that, in consequence of your Excellency's note of the 15th ult., and to the knowledge that our enemy is being daily equipped with British arms, I cannot share it. Should this state of things continue, I could only look forward to the soothing influence which the numerous and actual proofs of sympathy given by the English people and the manifold testimonies of public opinion in favour of Germany and its good right may have upon the feelings of the German nation.

SUBMARINE WARFARE.

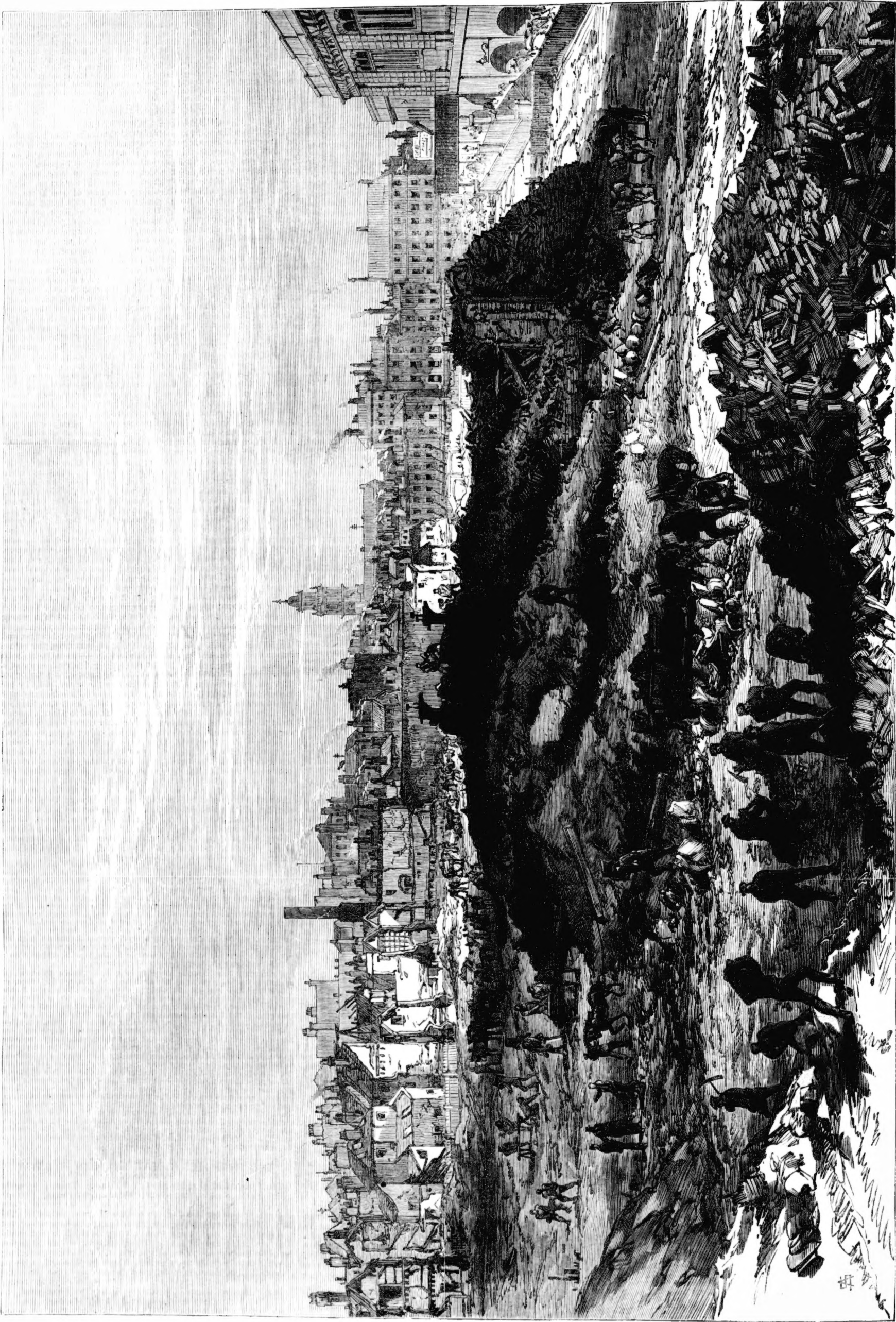
IN Sheerness Harbour, on Saturday afternoon last, an interesting experiment was made with a new kind of torpedo, which is the joint invention, as we are informed, of a Mr. Wightman and an Austrian gentleman. It is a "submarine flight torpedo," the construction and principle of which have hitherto been kept a profound secret, and in a very great degree still remain so. The experiment under notice was made by direction of the Lords of the Admiralty; and, although the torpedo had been lying in one of the storehouses in Sheerness Dockyard for some days, no one, except those employed by the inventors, has been permitted to inspect it. From what we can glean, however, it appears that the torpedo itself is of a fish-shaped construction, of zinc, having a revolving "tail" at one end. It is necessary that a ship intended to discharge the torpedo should be fitted with an apparatus (also newly invented) for the purpose of compressing air within a sort of cylinder, and to this is fixed a long tube for the reception of the torpedo. This tube, which is similar to a rocket tube, is carried from the interior of the ship, through a hole in the bows, 8 ft. or 10 ft. below the surface of the water. The orifice of the tube next the water is covered with a cap, to which a line is attached and carried up to the forecabin for the purpose of removing it when all is ready to discharge the torpedo, the latter being filled with gun-cotton and other detonating and powerfully-explosive substances. The cylinder being filled with air, the torpedo is placed in the tube, in the same manner as a congrue rocket. The vessel is then steered to within a suitable distance of the vessel to be destroyed, and the cap removed by means of the line above mentioned. The compressed air is then forced into the tube, and the torpedo is launched with a sufficient submarine momentum to strike and destroy any ship within a range of from 100 to 1800 yards. For the experiment of Saturday last her Majesty's steam sloop of war *Oberon* had been expressly fitted with all the apparatus above described. She was steered (so as to avoid danger to other craft in the harbour) to within about 200 yards of *L'Aigle*, an old wooden frigate of great strength, and lately used as a coal-hulk, which had been lent by the Admiralty for the purpose. This vessel was moored head and stern on what is called the west shore of the Isle of Grain, in a sufficient depth of water to cause the effect of the explosion of the torpedo to be seen, by the ship sinking some 10 ft. or 12 ft., the object in view being that the destruction of the ship's bottom might be visible at low tide, and also that the vessel might be temporarily repaired, so as to be floated for further probable experiments. About one o'clock, the tide being nearly flood, the *Oberon* was placed bows on to *L'Aigle*, and a striped flag hoisted on board. Shortly afterwards this flag was lowered, as a signal that the torpedo had been sent on its errand of destruction. Expectation was now on tip-toe, for it had been anticipated that the explosion would be instantaneous; but it was not so; and, after a few seconds had elapsed, whispers began to be heard that the experiment was a failure, or that the torpedo had taken a wrong direction. In about thirty seconds, however, from the lowering of the flag, an explosion occurred, under the counter of *L'Aigle*, and a mountain of water, blackened with coal-dust from the refuse in the hulk, was thrown up. The stern of the ship rose bodily with it, and now was heard a report resembling the dull boom of a heavy piece of ordnance heard at the distance of a mile or so. *L'Aigle*, immediately on falling back into the water, sank by the stern until she took the bottom, but had there been sufficient depth of water she would have totally disappeared. As it was, the ship speedily filled with water from stem to stern, and in about a minute from the time of the explosion had sunk her entire length, and lay on the bottom, with only about 7 ft. or 8 ft. of her upper works and bulwarks above the surface. The steam-tugs *Bustler*, *Locust*, *Sheerness*, and a number of yachts, having on board a party of scientific and other spectators, were stationed at various points in the harbour to witness the effects of the explosion. A large detachment of commissioned and non-commissioned officers from the school of military engineering at Chatham were on board the *Bustler*; and among the naval and military officers present were Vice-Admiral the Hon. C. G. J. B. Elliott, C.B., Commander-in-Chief at Sheerness; Captain Luard, C.B., R.N.; Flag-Captain Wilson, R.N.; Colonel Thompson, R.A., Commandant of the Garrison; Colonel Kerr, R.E., Commandant Royal Engineers; Captain Beaumont, R.E., M.P., and many others. The experiment cannot be considered otherwise than perfectly successful.

MARRIAGE OF PRINCESS LOUISE.—We have reason to believe that the Queen has given her consent to the marriage of her Royal Highness Princess Louise to Lord Lorne, the eldest son of the Duke of Argyll. We feel confident that this announcement will be received by the country in the same spirit which induced the Royal assent, and that her Majesty's solicitude for the happiness of her family will be recognised and appreciated in an event involving such a departure from the usages of modern times. The position of the Princess, removed by many lives from the succession, makes it impossible to foresee any of those difficulties arising from dynastic complications which have operated as a bar to marriages of a subject with a member of the reigning family. —*Morning Post*.

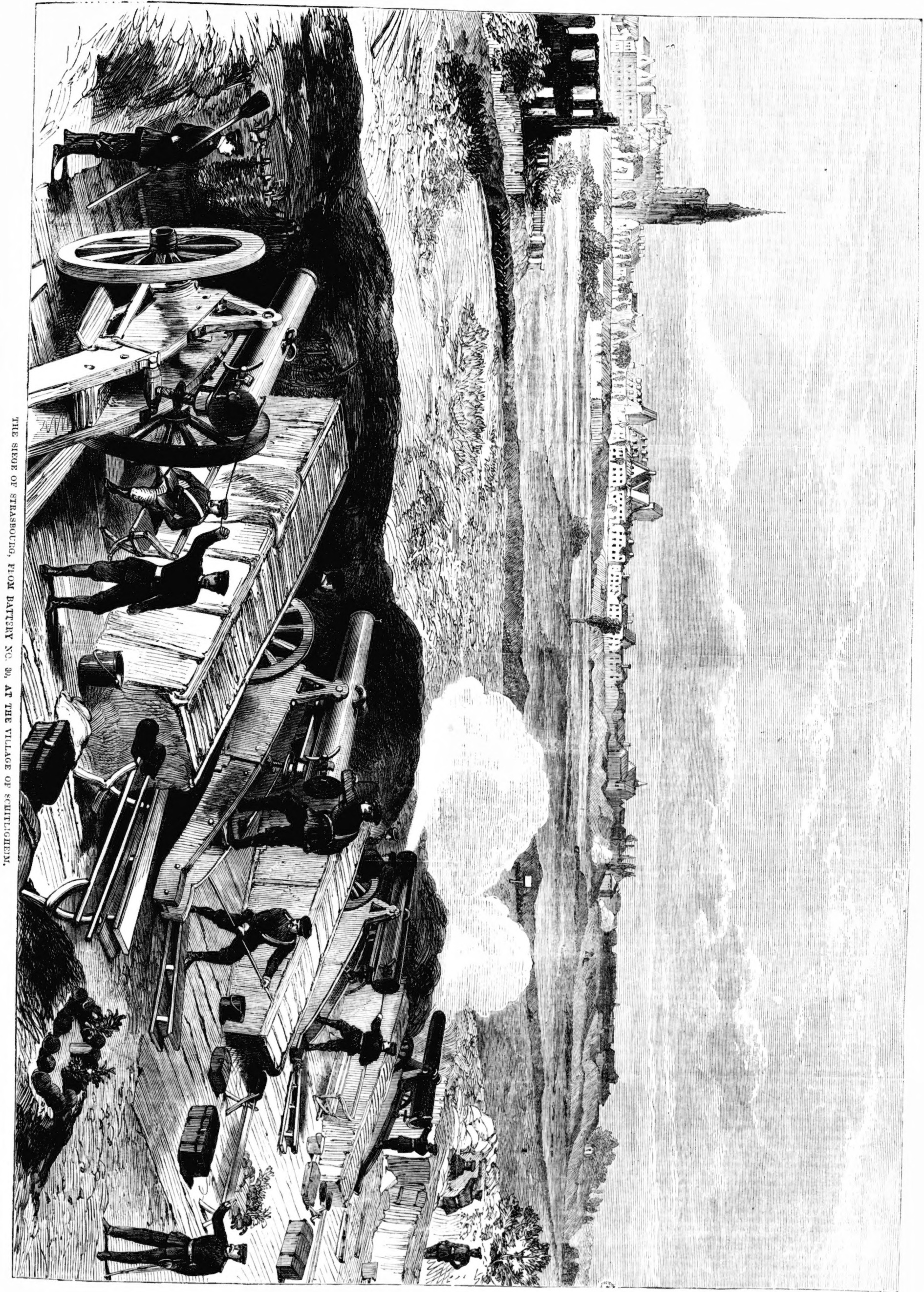
EDINBURGH PARLIAMENT HOUSE.—For some weeks improvement operations have been going on in the Parliament House. The Advocates' Library has been extended by taking in the Laigh Parliament House, situated under the great hall, and shelving has been put up which will render the library capable of containing about 20,000 additional volumes. One effect of this increased accommodation will be that the librarians will be enabled to classify the books with greater completeness than was before possible. Previous to the alterations being commenced, the library consisted of some 250,000 volumes; so that when the increased accommodation which has now been obtained is fully taken advantage of, the library will have a total of 270,000 books. Since the rising of the Court, also, workmen have been engaged in repairing and cleaning the great hall and the different court-rooms. The walls of the hall have been re-painted a stone colour; the fine oak roof has been cleaned, re-varnished, and re-glazed; and the four side windows have been filled with stained glass. These windows have been put in by the representatives and friends of distinguished members of the Faculty of Advocates. Sir George Harvey, the President of the Royal Scottish Academy, has given his aid in superintending the designing and execution of the windows. The whole manifests admirable taste and judgment on his part, while the work reflects credit upon Messrs. Ballantine and Son, of this city, by whom it has been carried out. —*Scotman*.

THE PROPOSED GREAT EASTERN RAILWAY TERMINUS.

THE ground cleared for the Great Eastern Railway terminus embraces the whole space included by Liverpool-street, Bishopsgate-street, Sun-street, the fourth side of the enormous square being bounded by Broad-street station (North London). The only houses now standing are those facing Bishopsgate-street, the space being quite open from Liverpool-street to Sun-street. The remaining houses facing Bishopsgate-street are separated by an assemblage of courts, alleys, yards, &c. Those most likely to come down are Dunning's-alley, Sweet Apple-court, Bishopsgate-buildings, Farrar's-rents, Half Moon-street (the remainder of it, that is; for the greater part is now included in the cleared space), One Swan-yard, Britannia-place, Two Swan-yard, and Still-alley. Most of these places are "blind," evil-smelling, and close. Still-alley is about 21 ft. wide. The prevailing colours are of lavender and tallow.



SITE FOR THE PROPOSED TERMINUS OF THE GREAT EASTERN RAILWAY AT BROAD-STREET, CITY.



THE SIEGE OF STRASBOURG, FROM BATTERY NO. 30, AT THE VILLAGE OF SCHILLINGHEIM.

THE CITY OF STRASBOURG.

THE details of the siege of Strasbourg must now be tolerably familiar to our readers; so, instead of recalling the sad story in connection with the accompanying Engraving, we prefer to give some information about the ancient city itself. This we extract chiefly from an article that appeared in a recent number of *All the Year Round*:

"This city, the capital, in old times, of the half-German province of Alsace, and now the capital of the department of the Lower Rhine, boasts its 500 cannon and its 82,000 inhabitants, and is one of the strongest fortresses in France. It stands on the Ill, about a mile and a half from the broad Rhine; and the stream beside which it is built intersects it with many channels.

"Louis XIV., in 1681—always unscrupulous in his ambition—got possession of Strasbourg, which was then a free Imperial town, by an unexpected foray upon it during a time of peace. It was the ambition of France even then to extend her Rhenish frontier and push Germany farther back. Vauban instantly set to work to secure the conquest by strengthening what was weak and increasing what was already strong. He built a pentagonal fortress, or citadel of five bastions, besides five sluice-houses, whose outer works extend to the arm of the Rhine. He gave this stronghold—which will hold 1750 men—the motto, 'Servat et observat.' He also constructed large sluices at the spot where the Ill enters the town, so as to lay the whole country round, between the Rhine and the Ill, under water, in case of need. On the side of the Porte-des-Mines, which could not be inundated, the glacis was mined. The arsenal contains—or did before the present war—arms and equipments for nearly 400,000 men, and it has also 952 cannon, including the 550 required for the ramparts and for the citadel. To all these resources of the semi-German town, facing the duchy of Baden, we must add a cannon foundry, which every year produces 300 pieces of artillery of various calibres, and boasts one furnace that will contain 25,400 kilogrammes. The town, as a military centre, also possesses eight barracks, sufficient for the accommodation of 10,000 men, a military hospital, built for 1200 or 1800 beds, and used since 1814 as a military hospital school. The stronghold is also the seat of a regimental school of artillery, under the command of a General. It is impossible for the traveller to forget, when in Strasbourg, that the town is an important fortress, for all the seven gates are shut in the winter at eight, and in summer at ten o'clock, though diligences are allowed to enter later, as well as travellers by post or steamboat.

"The greatest modern event that has taken place at Strasbourg was the wild attempt at an insurrection made in that city by Prince Louis Napoleon Bonaparte, on Oct. 30, 1836, the year Charles X. died. The misguided Prince, son of Louis, the ex-King of Holland, had been educated in Switzerland, and was a captain of artillery in the army of that country. Having entered into a treasonable correspondence with Colonel Vaudry, of the Strasbourg garrison, who gained over a few of the men and filled the adventurer's mind with too sanguine hopes, the Prince came to Strasbourg, to fire the train and try for the throne. On the morning of Oct. 30, the Prince, dressed as like his uncle as possible, and wearing decorations and a cordon rouge, proceeded to the barracks. The zealous Colonel, assembling his men instantly, told them, with great alacrity in lying, that there had been a revolution in Paris; that Louis Philippe was no more; lastly, that Napoleon II., a descendant of the 'great man,' had been proclaimed; and that there, in fact (pushing forward the Prince) he stood before them. The coup de théâtre succeeded for the moment. The soldiers, pleased at the remarkable attention paid to them by the new Emperor, shouted, and followed him as their commander. The Prefect was arrested in his bed, and a guard was placed over him. A body of the mutineers, led by a Colonel Fargin, then marched to the house of General Voirot, the commander of the division, and requested his allegiance to the new chief. The General, however, calmly addressing the soldiers, soon convinced them that they had been tricked. The General, being then set at liberty, at once secured the citadel.

"In the mean time, the Emperor of an hour and his zealous Colonel had proceeded to the barracks of the 46th Regiment, and tried the old plan. But an Aide-de-Camp of General Voirot gave notice to the Colonel of the regiment, who, going to the palace, found the Prince and his plotters reasoning with the soldiers, and trying to gain them over. The Colonel was prompt; he at once closed the gates and trapped the whole party. General Voirot then, having released the Prefect, came down from the citadel and carried the Prince and his accomplices straight to prison. The minor conspirators were tried and punished, but the arch-plotter, treated in a generous and somewhat contemptuous way by Louis Philippe, was packed off from L'Orient to the United States, on Nov. 21, in a French frigate. Singularly enough, a similar attempt was made at Vendôme on the very same day by a hussar sergeant, who wished to proclaim the rights of man, arm the pioneers, and march on Tours. He shot a brigadier, who tried to arrest him, and then gave himself up. He was condemned to death.

"The choicest promenades of Strasbourg are beyond the enceinte. The two finest are called the Contades and the Robertsau. The latter is composed of huge lawns, intersected by walks designed by Le Notre, Louis XIV.'s great gardener, of a splendid orangery (1200 trees), where the Empress Josephine lodged in 1806 and 1809, of an English garden, a suspension-bridge that leads to the Isle of Wacken, and of a smiling and coquettish village.

"The two great celebrities of Strasbourg, besides the immortal but unknown discoverer of the pâté, are Kleber, Napoleon's General, and Gutenberg, the supposed discoverer of printing. A monument to Kleber stands in the centre of the square named after him, and is raised over the hero's body, originally interred in the minster. This brave man, who, after many victories in Egypt, was assassinated by an Arab fanatic under a tree still shown in a garden at Cairo, was much esteemed by Napoleon. 'Kleber sometimes sleeps,' he said, 'but when he awakes it is the awaking of the lion.' There was a little of the German unreluctance about this brave Alsatian until battle roused him. He was never seen at his best but when under fire.

"Gutenberg, who practised printing as early as 1436 at Strasbourg, perfected his invention at Mayence. His assistant, Peter Schoeffer, who made metal letters with even greater success than his master, was a native of Strasbourg. The statue of Gutenberg, in the herb market, now called the Place Gutenberg, was modelled by David.

"But the wonder and delight of Strasbourg is the cathedral—one of the masterpieces of Gothic architecture. Founded by Clovis in 510, reconstructed by Popin and Charlemagne, destroyed by lightning in 1007, it was rebuilt, in 1015, by Erwin de Steinbach, and finished, in 1413, by Jean Hultze, of Cologne, after the tower had been 424 years incomplete. According to tradition, 10,000 workmen toiled at the holy work for the good of their souls, 'All for love, and nothing for reward.' An epitome of Gothic art, this cathedral contains specimens of every style, from the Byzantine upwards. Heaven send it a safe deliverance from Prussian shot and shell; let the gunners aim wide of that noble, heaven-piercing spire, which, according to the best guide-books, rises 468 ft. above the pavement—that is, 24 ft. higher than the Great Pyramid, and 64 ft. higher than St. Paul's, the body of the church itself being higher than the towers of York Minster. The view from this network of stone repays the giddy person. Beyond the dull red roofs, and the high-roofed and many-windowed houses, spreads the whole country of the Rhine and Black Forest, and on the side of France you see those Vosges mountains that might have been held against the world. Hope describes the netting of detached arcades and pillars over the west end of the cathedral to be like a veil of the finest cast iron, so sharp and bright is the carving of the durable stone; while Dr. Whewell, comparing the building to an edifice placed under a rich open

casket of woven stone, laments the sacrifice of distinctness from the multiplicity and intersection of the lines. The triple portal is peculiarly fine, and is in itself a world of quaint statues and bas-reliefs. The middle arch is adorned with no less than fourteen statues of the Old Testament prophets; on the right arch are the Ten Virgins, and on the left the Virgins treading under foot the Seven Capital Sins. In the revolution these carvings were destroyed, and the great brass doors melted down into money, but they have been restored with a most reverential care. The choir is plain and simple Romanesque, but the nave is the choicest early decorated German Gothic. The town's special treasures are the fine stained windows of the fourteenth century, recently restored (spare them, gentle gunners), the vast marvellous windows, and the famous astronomical clock, one of the wonders of Europe, comprising a perpetual calendar, a planetarium on the Copernican system, and shows the hour, the day of the week, the month of the year. It was made in 1571, and, after standing still for fifty-six years (a good rest), was repaired in 1842 by a mechanic of the town. This part of the cathedral is supported by a single pillar of great symmetry, and above the Gothic cornice appears the effigy of Erwin de Steinbach, the architect of this vast building, whose tombstone was discovered in 1855 in a humble little court behind the chapel of St. John. In an old house at the south-west corner of the Minster Platz there are preserved some curious ancient architectural drawings belonging to the cathedral.

"The Church of St. Thomas (Protestant) deserves a visit for its fine monument of Marshal Saxe, which cost the sculptor, Pigalle, whom Louis XV. employed, twenty-five years' labour. It represents the old warrior descending to the grave. France, a female figure, tries in vain to deter him, and at the same time to repel Death. Theatrical, say the critics, and French; but the expression of affection and anxiety in the woman's face is very tender and touching. This monument would have been destroyed by the revolutionary iconoclasts, had not a Strasbourg man, named Mangelschott, when the church was turned into a straw warehouse, covered it up with bundles of hay. They also show in this church the mummies, curiously preserved, of a Count of Nassau-Saarwerden and his daughter.

"The Jews of Strasbourg have now a splendid synagogue. In the Middle Ages they went through much here. In 1348 there was a wholesale holocaust of these poor wanderers; for 2000 of them, suspected by the ignorant citizens of poisoning wells and fountains, were burned in the Brand Gasse where the Prefecture now stands. Rage and fear had seized the people, and no Jew was henceforward allowed to sleep within the walls. Every evening at the signal of a horn blown on the minster tower, the detested people were compelled to depart to their houses in the suburbs. The new church contains fragments of a 'Dance of Death,' that grim allegory carried at last to a climax by Holbein.

"The Academy, originally a Protestant school, formed in 1532, and made a University in 1621, was suppressed at the Revolution. Here the good Oberlin and Schöplein and Schweighäuser, and last, but not least of all, Goethe studied. Goethe took his doctor's degree here in 1772. The Museum of Natural History is rich in Alsatian fossils, especially those of red marl and trins, and the fossil plants found at Sultz-les-Bains and Mulhausen. The botanical collection includes a section of the trunk of a silver fir from the Hochwald, near Baur; its diameter was 8 ft.; height, 150 ft.

"The public library, near the new church, contains 100,000 volumes (be merciful to these treasures, too, O amiable artillerymen!) Among the priceless curiosities are the Landsberg Missal, or Garden of Delights; it is full of early Byzantine miniatures, circa 1180, and belonged to Herrade, Abbess of Stohenberg. Among the early printed books are 'Cicero,' by Faust, 1465; a Strasbourg Bible, by Eggesteur, 1446; and a Mentchin Bible, printed at the same place in the same year. In the two halls are stored some Roman antiquities found in Alsace, the old town standard of Strasbourg, a statue of Rudolph of Hapsburg, and some painted glass from Molsteins. The hope that all these treasures may escape the chances of war will not be confined to students alone."

The great clock of Strasbourg is one of the wonders of the world about which travellers are very apt to romance a little, making it out more wonderful than it really is. But, for all this, it is an extraordinary piece of mechanism, and its performances entitle it to rank high in the records of horology. All those who pass through Cheapside witness hourly—nay, four times an hour—with some degree of wonderment, the activity of a set of figures which strike the chimes and the hours outside the house of one of our most enterprising citizens. But these are wonderfully simple operations as compared with those of the celebrated Strasbourg clock, of which the citizens are justly proud. Before detailing these performances and describing the clock, it may be as well to refer to the history of this ingenious piece of mechanism. The clock stands in the cathedral, its origin dating as far back as 1352, in which year it was put up under the patronage of Berthold de Buchek, then Bishop of Strasbourg. Of the artist's name nothing appears to be known; he must, however, have been considered a prince among clockmakers in his day, for the clock appears to have been a highly successful work of art for the period. It was divided into three parts, the lower portion exhibiting a universal calendar. In the middle part was an astrolabe, and in the upper division were the figures of three kings and the Virgin carved in wood. At the striking of each hour the three kings bowed to the Virgin, whilst a carillon carolled a cheerful tune and a cock crowed and clapped his wings. In course of time, however, this cock got out of order, and in 1547 its repair was committed to the charge of Dr. Michael Herr, Chretel Herlin, and Nicholas Prignor, three mathematicians of repute. They died before their work was finished; but it was taken up by Conrad Dasypodius, a pupil of Herlin, who completed his task in four years. The clock went well until the year of the Great Revolution, when it struck for the last time. Nearly fifty years passed, during which time the great clock gradually fell into a very dilapidated state. It was then resolved once more to restore it to its former working condition; but this was found to be impossible, as the works were eaten up with rust and vermin. At length one Schwilgue, an artist and mathematician of Strasbourg, offered to repair, modify, and reinstate the clock, which task, it is recorded, he commenced on June 24, 1836, and finished in four years from that time. It is stated that Schwilgue received an order to construct a similar clock for a cantonal capital in Switzerland; but his townsmen, jealous of the horological fame of Strasbourg, put out his eyes, and thus prevented him from fulfilling the order. We have no authority for this statement, and therefore can only consider it in the light of one of the travellers' tales to which we have already alluded. The mechanism of the new clock was placed by Schwilgue in the old casing, the number of the figures having been increased, and their appearance being improved by jointed limbs. The quarter-chimes are struck by figures representing the four ages of man, which move in a circle round a skeleton mower. The hour bell is struck by a genius, a figure of an angel at the same moment turning an hour-glass, through the narrow neck of which the sand is kept perpetually running year after year. Every day at noon a procession of the twelve Apostles takes place around a figure of the Saviour. Each one in passing inclines towards the central figure, which, when the circuit has been made, extends its hands as in the act of blessing. During the procession a cock flutters his wings, opens his beak, and crows three times. The clock shows the month and the day of the month, the sign of the zodiac, the Dominical letter, the sidereal time, the Copernican planetary system, and the procession of the equinoxes. Its mechanism is so perfectly elaborated that it marks the 29th day of February in every leap year. With this perfection of detail nowonder that the citizens of Strasbourg are proud of their cathedral clock, and no wonder either that travellers are neither slow to visit it nor to enlarge its performances to an extent somewhat beyond its real capability. —*Mechanics' Magazine*.

REDUCED POSTAL TARIFF.

On and after Oct. 1,

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION TO THE ILLUSTRATED TIMES.
Three Months .. 3s. 10s. | Six Months .. 7s. 7d. | Twelve Months .. 13s. 2d.
(In all cases to be Paid in Advance.)



A TERRIBLE WARNING.

Nobody will grieve for the ogress Waters. Her punishment does not exceed her guilt. But the whole story is still open to a few serious words of comment.

The opinion expressed in this column that she was not legally guilty of murder, was soon afterwards avowed by an evening contemporary in an article written, we believe, by a highly-accomplished lady who has made admirable contributions to our social and theological literature; and also by at least one of the weekly London newspapers besides. More important still, several London physicians of high repute published a protest against the justice of the verdict—their motive being, like our own, by no means one of compassion for the wretched woman who has just been strangled, but simply a desire that the law should not be overstepped. Against all this there is nothing to set but the opinion of the jury, which is of not the slightest consequence, and that of the Attorney-General and Chief Baron Kelly. The latter gentleman—of apple-pip celebrity—never was a great or even a considerable lawyer, and is far advanced in years. The Attorney-General is a man of even lower intellectual calibre than the late Sir William Atherton. Their opinions, also, are not of the slightest consequence.

There is lurking at the bottom of the minds of most men who know much about the case the opinion that the law was strained, in deference to a long whipped-up public cry for some body to hang; and that is the simple truth. This detestable baby-contractor was originally indicted for causing the death of certain children by neglecting to provide them with proper food, and also for manslaughter. On either of these counts, as well as on one for obtaining money under false pretences, she might legally have been found guilty. The punishment she would then have incurred would have been utterly inadequate to her guilt. She was therefore indicted for murder, at the instance of the Attorney-General, and, as we maintain (and in good company, too), illegally executed.

Now, if there are any persons who, in cool blood, think it good that people should be hanged, or even fined, by a stretch of the law, we beg them to consider this—that the greatest of all barriers to the improvement of an inefficient law is this trick of making another law do the work by a *riechel* blow, or in any other way. There is not, as we have repeatedly urged, a single particular in which the existing laws are so deficient in severity and in workableness as in what relates to the protection of women and children. The law of infanticide is a shame and a scandal; but who will care to amend it if we find we can attain our ends—at least, an end—by playing fast and loose with the law as it stands?

The woman Waters anticipated, in her letter to the Rev. Mr. Jessopp, a point which we had intended to raise. Is nobody else to be "whopped" in this case? If neglecting to provide proper food for a child is murder in the ogress Waters, what was it in either of the mothers or other accessories who handed new-born babies over to her custody? The chances are a million to one that a new-born baby disposed of as little Cowan was will die. A baby who is wet-nursed for a few weeks and then gradually let down to artificial food is likely to live; but it must be wet-nursed to begin with. This is quite notorious, and even obvious; and, that being so, we should be glad to know what precise crime, according to English law, is committed by a mother who transfers a new-born infant to a dry-nurse, and there leaves the little life she has brought into the world. The crime, whatever the name may be in law, is extensively committed by fashionable and very "moral" mothers. Perhaps Inspector Relf or Inspector Somebodyelse will look up a few flagrant cases, and put the Attorney-General in motion.

THE POSTAL CARDS.

ALMOST before the ink of a short article in this Journal upon the new postal-card system was dry, the very thing hinted at as likely in that article was taking place. People were already using the postal cards as instruments of abuse, and even of worse insult. The Lord Mayor has very properly stated that the Post Office has power to intercept libellous or indecent missives, and to punish the senders. This is true: but what is libellous? It is libellous to write a man down a thief or an adulterer, but not to write him down a liar or a duffer. We doubt if it is a libel to call a man a scamp. But rudely-inscribed postal cards might doubtless be intercepted, as likely to excite to a breach of the peace, and the senders might be prosecuted. It is just as well that these things should be made extensively known, and emphasised.

MARGARET WATERS was executed on Tuesday morning within the walls of Horsemonger-lane Gaol. On Monday night she made a statement in writing, in which she denies that she wilfully caused the death of any of the children, but admits that she "laid out" the bodies of five who had died while in her charge.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

HER MAJESTY, according to present arrangements, will arrive at Windsor on the 2nd of next month.

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCESS LOUIS OF HESSE-DARMSTADT (Princess Alice) has been safely delivered of a Prince. Both the Princess and the infant are doing well.

THE EMPRESS OF RUSSIA has sent to the Wurtemberg Union for the care of the Sick and Wounded a large number of things required for the purposes of the society, and, at the same time, a considerable sum of money.

THE KING OF SAXONY has instituted a special grand cross of the Military Order of St. Henry, which is to be worn exclusively by the King of Saxony. The order was presented to his Majesty, at Versailles, on the 9th inst.

KING FRANCIS OF NAPLES AND COUNT TRANI, not wishing to remain at Rome after its occupation by the Italians, will remove to Munich. They have bought the Chateau of Garthausen, in Upper Bavaria.

GENERAL F. EURY, formerly Ambassador at St. Petersburg, arrived at Calcutta on Tuesday, and was immediately received in audience by the Emperor.

CARDINAL MATTEI, the President of the Sacred College by seniority, is dead, aged seventy-eight. He is succeeded in his office by Cardinal Patrizi.

THE RIGHT HON. W. E. GLADSTONE visited Liverpool on Monday, and had an interview with the Mayor at the Townhall.

FIELD-MARSHAL SIR J. FOX BURGOYNE, G.C.B., is rapidly recovering from his recent severe illness.

LORD CHARLES BERTIE PERCY, of Guy's Cliff, Warwickshire, died at Alnwick Castle, on Tuesday morning, after an illness of three days. His death was the result of the present Duke of Northumberland.

THE SECRETARY OF THE POST OFFICE has intimated to a City firm that notices out of envelopes may be sent at the halfpenny rate of postage.

THE JUDICIAL COMMITTEE OF THE PRIVY COUNCIL have appointed Thursday, Nov. 10, to hear the appeal of the Rev. Mr. Voysey from the judgment of the Chancery Court of York.

THE VACANCY ON THE BENCH at the Worship Street Police Court has been filled by the appointment of Mr. H. J. Bushby, of the Home Circuit, and Recorder of Colchester.

THE VINTAGE has begun in Champagne, and, by order of the Grand Duke of Mecklenburg, is placed under the special protection of the military authorities.

THE STEAMER HORNET has been seized at New York on an allegation of the Spanish Consul of her being intended for a filibustering expedition.

THE BERLIN SOCIETY FOR THE RELIEF OF THE WOUNDED has ordered one hundred more ambulance waggonettes. They will be sent to the seat of war to serve for the transport to railway stations of the wounded who still remain in out-of-the-way villages.

A PROTEST against the invasion of Rome has been drawn up, and is in course of signature by the lay Catholics of England, with the Duke of Norfolk at their head.

THE MUNICIPALITY OF LYONS has contracted for 250,000 murets, with ammunition to correspond. 150,000 of these will be placed at the disposal of the neighbouring departments.

COUNT BISMARCK declines to liberate Herr Jacoby, considering his arrest to be justified by "the requirements of the present exceptional period."

MR. RICHARD LEWIS, the barrister, and the well-known secretary of the National Life Boat Institution, delivered a lecture on "The Life-Boat and its Work," in the lecture-hall of the Sunday School Union, in the Old Bailey, on Tuesday night.

HOW NUMEROUS THE JEWS ARE IN PRUSSIA was curiously intimated before Me'zon the 5th. This being their annual day of prayer and humiliation, no less than 1174 private and non-commissioned officers assembled to approve a service in the open air.

THE REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS OF THE CONSERVATIVE LAND SOCIETY states that the receipts for the Michaelmas quarter were £26,694 18s.; for the year ending Sept. 30, £133,276 15s. 11d.; and the grand total, £1,583,359 15s. 2d. The last share number issued was No. 34,756, representing a subscribed capital of £1,728,800, the withdrawals amounting to £99,991 3s. 9d.

THE TOTAL RECEIPTS OF THE EXCHEQUER from April 1 to Saturday 1st, the 8th inst., were £31,326,175, or upwards of three millions and three quarters less than for the corresponding period of last year. The expenditure for the same time was £37,969,171. The balance standing to the credit of the Government in the Bank of England was £716,133.

ANOTHER FATAL ACCIDENT from the careless handling of firearms took place at Ipswich on Sunday. A volunteer named Walter Chambers, after dinner, took up his rifle to do something to it. A young woman named Spurgeon, to whom Chambers was engaged to be married, asked him how he fired it, and he proceeded to show her. Unfortunately, the rifle was loaded, and went off. The bullet struck the young woman behind the left ear, carrying away part of her head, and killing her instantaneously.

THE LORD MAYOR, at the Mansion House, on Monday, called attention to the fact that already many evil-disposed persons were taking advantage of the facilities offered by the new post cards for circulating offensive and improper remarks. He added, for the information of the public, that the Post Office authorities had power either to prevent cards so used being delivered or to enable the authors to be traced and punished.

AN EDUCATIONAL MOVEMENT has been going on in Kent for some time with the view of establishing a large middle-class public school. The proposal has received the patronage of Viscount Sidney, the Lord Lieutenant, most of the Parliamentary representatives, and also many of the landed gentry. It is proposed to raise the necessary capital by means of a joint-stock company.

MR. JOHN GURDON REBOW, one of the Liberal members for Colchester, died on Wednesday, after an illness of some duration, aged seventy-one. He first represented the borough from 1857 to 1859, when he lost his seat, and for seven years was absent from Parliament. He was, however, re-elected in 1865, and has ever since represented the constituency. Sir Thomas Abdy is mentioned as a Liberal, and Colonel Learmonth as a Conservative candidate in connection with the vacancy.

A PETITION has been presented to the Queen, signed by more than 2500 women and girls employed in the art of bookbinding, setting forth the great loss and privation they suffer by the stoppage of the trade in Prayer-books and Church Services, in consequence of the withdrawal of the Table of Lessons Bill last Session. They pray her Majesty to cause it to be reintroduced into Parliament at the earliest possible period.

SOME EXPERIMENTS have been made at Tours with a view of ascertaining at what distance balloons would be in danger of being struck by projectiles. At an elevation of 2500 metres not a single ball struck the experimental balloon. At a distance of 1000 and 1200 metres several bullets struck the balloon, but the escape of gas was so gradual that, aided by a good wind, it would bear the aerostat some miles from the locality where it had been struck.

DR. JACOBY'S SPEECH.—The following is a translation of Dr. Jacoby's speech, which proved so very disagreeable to the Prussian Government:—"The chief question, the decision of which alone has any importance for us, is this: Has Prussia or Germany the right to appropriate Alsace and Lorraine? They tell us Alsace and Lorraine belonged formerly to the German empire. France possessed herself of these lands by craft and by force. Now that we have beaten the French, it is no more than what is right and proper that we should recover from them the spoil, and demand back the property stolen from us. Gentlemen, Do not let yourselves be led away by well-sounding words, and, though they offer you the empire of the world, be not tempted to worship the idols of power. Test this well-sounding phrase, and you will find that it is nothing but a disguise for the old and barbarous right of force. Alsace and Lorraine they say, were formerly German property, and must again become German. How so, we inquire? have, then, Alsace and Lorraine no inhabitants? Or are, perchance, the inhabitants of these provinces to be regarded as having no volition—as a thing that one may at once take possession of and dispose of just as one likes? Have they lost all their rights through the war? Have they become slaves, whose fate is at the arbitrary disposal of the conqueror? Even the most ardent and inordinate partisan of annexation allows that the inhabitants of Alsace and Lorraine are in heart and soul French, and wish to remain French. And, however much they might have offended us, it would be contrary to all human justice should we try to Germanize them compulsorily, and incorporate them against their will either with Prussia or any other German State. Gentlemen, There is an old German proverb, which has been raised to a universal moral law on account of its being so true—'Do not unto others what you would not they should do unto you.' How should we and our 'national Liberals' feel if at some future time a victorious Pole should demand back and seek to annex the provinces of Posen and West Russia? And yet the same grounds might be urged for this that are now brought forward to support an annexation of Alsace and Lorraine. No, gentlemen! It is our duty to oppose such tendencies of national egotism. Let us hold fast to the principles of justice as much in public life as in private life. Let us openly declare it to be our deep and honest conviction that every incorporation of foreign territory against the wishes of the inhabitants is a violation of the right of self-consent common to all people, and therefore as objectionable as it is pernicious. Let us, without being led astray by the intoxication of victory, raise a protest against every violence offered to the inhabitants of Alsace and Lorraine. Only he who respects the liberty of others is himself worthy of liberty."

THE VACANT PROFESSORSHIPS AT CAMBRIDGE.

THE richest and the poorest professorships in Cambridge University are, singularly enough, vacant at the same time. The Regius Professorship of Divinity was endowed with a stipend of £40 per annum, chargeable upon the revenues of Trinity College, and was augmented by King James I. with the Rectory of Somersham in Huntingdonshire, the gross value of which is upwards of £2000 a year. The Arabic Professorship founded by Sir Thomas Adams was also originally endowed with a stipend of £40 a year, but, less fortunate than the sister foundation, has only been augmented by the proceeds of a legacy of £1000 invested in the Three per Cent Consols. The income of the Arabic Professor at Cambridge may be reckoned at about thirty shillings a week, the wages of a respectable mechanic, and therefore not likely in all cases to attract the competition of the best scholars.

There are two candidates in the field for the Divinity Professorship, both of whom are men of considerable University distinction. Canon Westcott, Examining Chaplain to the Bishop of Peterborough, graduated as 21st wrangler in 1848, in which year he was second Chancellor's Medalist, and bracketed as Senior Classic with the present Head Master of Westminster. He obtained the Balfour University Scholarship in 1846, the Browne medal for the Greek ode in 1846 and 1847, and the members' prize in 1847 and 1849. In the last mentioned year he was elected to a fellowship at Trinity. His Norman prize essay on "The Elements of the Gospel Harmony" (1850) was afterwards expanded into the larger "Introduction to the Study of the Four Gospels," now in a third edition. Of his "History of the Canon of the New Testament" a third edition is passing through the press. His other works are, "The Bible in the Church," "A General View of the History of the English Bible," "Characteristics of the Gospel Miracles," "The Gospel of the Resurrection," and "The Christian Life, Manifold and One." Besides these, Canon Westcott contributed some of the most important articles to Dr. Smith's "Dictionary of the Bible," those especially on the Canon, the Vulgate, the New Testament, and the separate books of the Apocrypha being from his pen. The article on the Vulgate stands alone in its exhaustive treatment of the subject. A critical text of the Greek Testament, under the joint editorship of Canon Westcott and Mr. Hort, is advertised as ready to appear. Canon Perowne, Examining Chaplain to the Bishop of Norwich, was Bell Scholar in 1842, Crosse Theological Scholar in 1845, Members' prizeman in 1844, 1846, and 1847, and Tyrwhitt's Hebrew Scholar in 1848. He became a Fellow of Corpus, and was one of the examiners for the Classical Tripos in 1851 and 1852. After leaving Cambridge he held the Professorship of Hebrew in King's College, London, and subsequently succeeded the late Dr. Rowland Williams as Vice-Principal at St. David's College, Lampeter. Like Canon Westcott, he was a contributor to Dr. Smith's "Dictionary of the Bible," for which he wrote the articles on the Pentateuch and its several books, and discussed the question of the Deluge under the Head of "Noah." He is likewise the author of a new translation of the Book of Psalms, with introductions and notes, and the Hulsean Lectures for 1868 on "Immortality."

A memorial has been addressed to the Council of the Senate at Cambridge calling attention to the extremely small stipend attached to the Professorship of Arabic. The condition of the University chest forbids the hope that the deficiency can be supplied from such a quarter. Why should not the funds now appropriated to the Esquire Bedels be made to produce a result more in accordance with the objects of the learned university? One of these posts is also vacant. If it were not filled up, what would the University lose? It is possible that the money might be better spent.

COLUMBIA FISH MARKET.—This new wholesale market, close to Shore-ditch parish church and near the Great Eastern terminus, begins to be much better known and to be far more largely patronized by the costermongers and the local fishmongers than when it opened, on Feb. 21 last. The herring season has begun with activity in the market. Plaice, haddock, skate, and all kinds of cheap fish often sell in "Columbia" at rather higher prices than in Billingsgate; and it is not a matter of surprise, as the great population around "Columbia" consume such fish very largely. With the German and French markets almost closed, and meat in England certain soon to become dearer, the consigners and curers of fish on the Scotch and north of England coasts are sold warmly to encourage this second wholesale outlet for fish in the metropolis. Herrings and other supplies come in daily from Yarmouth, Lowestoft, Grimsby, Harwich, &c.

THE LOSS OF H.M.S. CAPTAIN.—The naval court-martial on the loss of the Captain gave judgment last Saturday. They found that the vessel was "captured by the pressure of sail, assisted by the heave of the sea, and that the amount of sail carried at the time of her loss (regard being had to the force of the wind and the state of the sea), was insufficient to have endangered a ship endowed with a proper amount of stability." The Court also found that no blame was attributable to Mr. James May and the survivors of the Captain for her loss, and fully acquitted them of all blame. The judgment concluded as follows:—"The Court, before separating, find it their duty to record the conviction they entertain, that the Captain was built in deference to public opinion as expressed in Parliament and through other channels, and in opposition to the views and opinions of the Controller of the Navy and his department, and that the evidence all tends to show that the Controller of the Navy and his department generally disapproved of her construction. It further appears on evidence that before the Captain was received from the contractors a grave departure from her original design had been committed, whereby her draught of water was increased by about two feet, and her freeboard diminished to a corresponding extent, and that her stability proved to be dangerously small, combined with an area of sail, under these circumstances, excessive, the Court deeply regret that, if these facts were duly known and appreciated, they were not communicated to the officer in command of the ship; or that, if otherwise, the ship was allowed to be employed in the ordinary service of the fleet before these facts had been sufficiently ascertained by calculations and experiment." After the reading of the judgment had been concluded, Mr. May's sword was returned to him by the president of the Court, who said:—"Mr. May, I am desirous by this Court to avail myself of this present occasion, the returning to you of your sword, to acquaint you that the Court is satisfied that you did everything in your power at the time of the loss of the Captain to save the lives of more of your shipmates, consistent with your duty, and that your conduct and that of the other survivors of the crew of the Captain during the period they were under your command reflects credit on yourselves and on the service to which you belong." Captain Sherard Osborn, in a letter to the *Times*, says that the verdict of the court-martial on the loss of the Captain is all that could be desired on the point the Court had to consider; but it now rests with those who, like himself, hold the professional reputation of his lost friends, Captains Cowper Coles and Hugh Burgoyne, very dear, to ask the following questions, and to insist, sooner or later, on straightforward replies:—First, By whose order was it that the Captain was inclined in Portsmouth Harbour early last August, for the purpose of ascertaining the position of her centre of gravity and consequent stability; and what was the date of that order? Secondly, Whether these calculations ought to have occupied sixteen days for an expert to work out? An eminent shipbuilder whom Captain Coles was in the habit of occasionally consulting, Captain Osborn says, told him that the necessary formula should not have required more than eight hours' hard work. Thirdly, To whom was the report on the results of the experiments of Aug. 6 communicated? Did the Board of Admiralty ever receive them? If so, on what date? Captain Osborn has reason to believe that the experiments were ordered, very wisely, by the Board of Admiralty. With whom, then, he asks, lies the blame of the report and necessary diagrams of the defective stability of her Majesty's ship Captain not having been brought to the knowledge of the Admirals of the fleet of which she formed a part, or to that of the gallant officer commanding her? On these points, Captain Osborn maintains, the whole question turns of whether the blame of her loss lies with those on board the Captain or with the Controller's Department of the Admiralty, who now, like other prophets, are so wise after the event. Captain Osborn totally disagrees with Mr. Reed that official caution of the stability of the ship, though given under Admiralty seal, would have been treated with indifference or incredulity. If, he says, Mr. Reed meant that "Coles or Burgoyne would have attached very little weight to his own opinion, unsupported by data or mathematical demonstration of the seaworthiness of a low freeboard turret-ship, I think he is right, and he would find hundreds, and I among others, of their way of thinking. Mr. Reed and Sir Spencer Robinson have produced too many melancholy failures in the shape of men-of-war for the service to consider them oracles." Captain Burgoyne, however, Captain Osborn adds, though blessed with great nerve and calmness, was never foolhardy, and with such a high sense of responsibility towards those under his command and care, much as he would have striven to satisfy Captain Coles of his ship's qualities having been fairly developed, he would have been the last man in the Navy to treat with indifference any official and unbiased intimation, had it been given him, of the sad lack of stability of the Captain after she had passed a certain point of inclination under sail.

WAR SKETCHES.

PRINCE FRITZ AT WORTH.

We have already published an Engraving of Marshal McMahon on the battle-field of Worth; and we now place before our readers a companion picture—Prince Fritz and his Staff while his Royal Highness was ordering the final charge on that field so fatal to the military prestige of France. We need add no word of description; the picture tells its own story.

CAPTURE OF A GUN NEAR ARTHENAY.

The scene depicted in the Engraving with this title took place during the combat near Arthenay, on Monday, between the troops commanded by General von der Tann and a portion of that "Army of the Loire" concerning which so much has been heard, but of which so little had been seen, for some time past. The incident, however, might have happened anywhere, as it is similar to many like occurrences; the capture of French guns by Prussian soldiers. The Engraving, it will be noticed, is a little rough; but that is accounted for by the fact that only a very brief space of time has been afforded for preparing it.

UTILISATION OF SEWAGE.

Mr. Meent, of Tiptree Hall Farm, reports as follows on the above-named subject:—

The farm of Mr. W. Hope, at Hornchurch, about 3½ miles from Romford, in Essex, receives the whole of the available sewage of that town, containing about 8000 inhabitants, which is conveyed to the farm by an iron underground pipe 18 in. in diameter, and is there raised 20 ft. high, 700 gallons per minute, by a centrifugal pump worked by an eight-horse-power engine, having two boilers, and consuming 15 cwt. of coal per day. The town of Romford pays the cost of pumping. Mr. Hope pays to the town £4 per acre rent for the land, and, in addition, 2s. per head for the cost of the inhabitants using the sewer, which adds £6 per acre to the rent. The farm is of 121 acres of light and poor gravelly soil, which had previously ruined several tenants. Last year 600 trees and an immense length of great fences were removed, ditches and nine ponds were filled up, and the land thoroughly under-drained, at a cost of £4 per acre, each drain at an interval of 150 ft.; the land levelled and formed by the dredge into rectangular beds of uniform width, each bed or strip 30 ft. wide, slightly inclining from its centre, along which the sewage is applied, and the supply-trenches so regulated by scientific levelling that, while the flow of sewage is sufficiently supplied, there shall be no scouring, but an easy and gradual distribution over every portion of the land. Roads are so arranged that free access may be had by horse and cart, or by steam plough, to every bed and crop. The whole arrangements appear to me to be most perfect, uniform, and business-like. Steam cultivation is contemplated. All the sewage is absorbed by the soil, and passes through it to the drains, issuing from them as clear as any pump water. I tasted some, and found it pleasant and drinkable. In summer and dry weather the drainage water is allowed to pass into the pump well, to dilute the sewage, and is again spread on the land. The sewage passes to the pumps through half-inch gratings, and flows inoffensively along the open troughings, having the same appearance as the London sewage, which I described in my last letter. It makes one wonder what all the hubbub has been about as to the dread of town sewage, for it is infinitely less offensive than the ordinary lands used as market gardens, which is abundantly used on the adjoining lands used as market gardens. Some idea of the fears of Parliament on this subject is given by the fact that the Metropolitan Sewage Company were forbidden to put any sewage on the land within two miles of the river Lea, while its very banks might be covered with an unlimited quantity of London dung, or any number of sheep or cattle.

It is only when town sewage is allowed to stagnate for a long period in tanks that it becomes so offensive. In this case it only remains in the tank during night, or from Saturday night until Monday morning.

But let us compare the condition of this farm now and formerly. Then three men and two boys were employed; now from thirty-five to forty are regularly employed, with sixteen horses. The crops are enormous and frequent. The minimum value of each crop is £20 per acre, and, as many are perfected in from two to three months, the total value is very considerable. While the surrounding farms and market-gardens had proved disastrous, owing to the excessive drought, here the crops have been and are now most abundant and luxuriant, consisting of cauliflowers, cabbages, potatoes, onions, parsnips, carrots, red and white beet, long red and globe mangold, and other vegetables. A crop of barley sown in July after lettuce is in full ear; Italian rye grass already cut five and six times; but the most remarkable is a crop of maize or Indian corn eight feet high, as thick in the stem as a mopstick, with gigantic ears formed and about piercing the sheath. Mr. Hope expects to ripen them, but this I doubt. In the meantime as cattle food the crop is worth £20 per acre, for horses and cattle are greedily fond of it. It seems difficult to realise the fact that great crops of various kinds should be gathered within ten to twelve weeks after sowing or planting, while those in the neighbourhood are languishing or perishing for want of moisture. With sewage, sowing and transplanting become a certainty in result. Mangold transplanted in July were a fine crop. I weighed cabbages 22 lb. each, and mangold would considerably exceed that. It is remarkable that not a single mangold in many acres had run to seed. Specimens of these crops will be exhibited by Mr. Hope at the Smithfield Show.

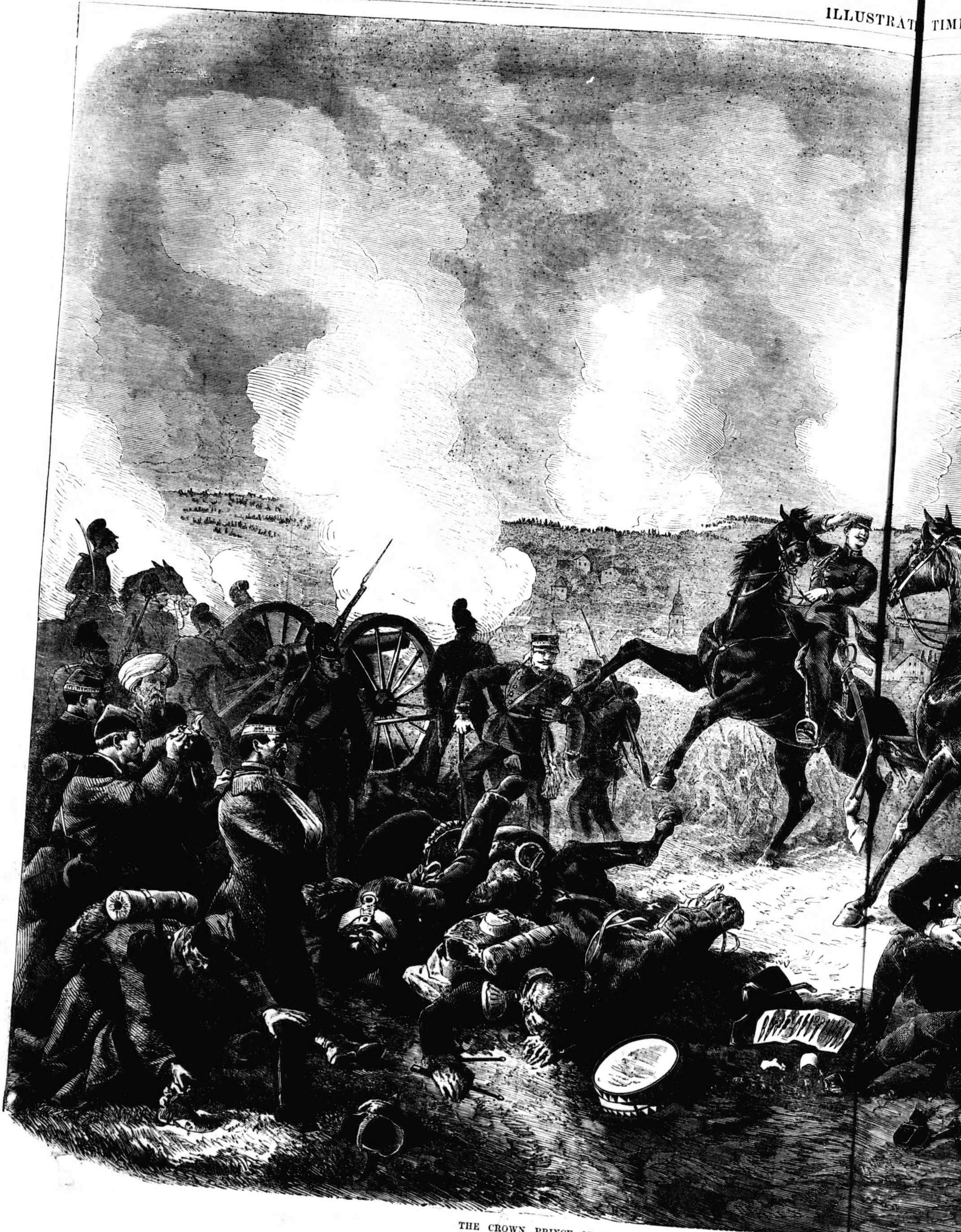
On these sewage-farms the weeds grow three times as fast and as large as on the unsewaged. The moment a crop is removed the land is scarified, the weeds removed, the land double or trench ploughed, flooded with sewage, and immediately planted with a new crop. We thus see within twelve months a wretchedly poor farm converted into a most luxuriant garden, its fertility ever increasing, multiplying food and the employment of labour concurrently, and extracting money value from that which is now, in too many cases, poisoning our streams. I could not avoid being struck by the healthy appearance of the engine driver, who may be said to live ten hours daily in a sewage atmosphere; so it was with the engine-driver at the outfall works which I recently visited.

The laying out and general arrangements of this sewage-farm must afford a most profitable example for those who have not had experience in such matters, and the public are indebted to Mr. Hope for the liberal permission to inspect this farm (after proper application to him), thus giving the benefit of his great experience in this sewage question. Each crop receives from five to seven floodings of sewage.

A CHURCH CONGRESS was opened, on Tuesday, at Southampton, and a large number of clergy and laity from all parts of England were present. The inaugural address was delivered by the Bishop of Winchester; after which papers on various subjects were read and discussed.

SUPPOSED DROWNING OF TWO GENTLEMEN.—On Monday morning, as a shipper named Ball was going along the Southport shore, and when opposite the Palace Hotel, he discovered a boat washed ashore, painted white, with a blue streak at the top, sail set, but without oars. In the boat were two complete suits of clothes, one belonging to an adult and the other to a younger person. In the pockets were two watches, one of Geneva, and the other an English lever, numbered 30,688; maker's name, "William Brown, Preston." Attached to this watch was a gold Albert chain, with large gold horse-hoof seal. A letter was found in one of the pockets, unopened, addressed to "Longworth Stock, Esq., 3, Tulketh-street, Ashton, Lancashire," written from 24, York-street, Portland-square, London, E.C., and warning the recipient from sailing in pleasure-boats, as it frightened the writer to death, being so dangerous. There were also a couple of address-cards with the name "Mr. S. J. Mulvany," and a second class return ticket from Preston to St. Helens, dated Oct. 8; a half sovereign, a horsehair pin, a small penknife, and sundry other articles. A basket of provisions was in the boat, containing four pint bottles of stout, one bottle of wine, an empty wine-bottle, a couple of pies, grapes, &c. The occupants of the boat were evidently persons occupying a good position; and it is supposed they were out sailing, had stripped to bathe, had been carried away by the strong current and unable to regain their boat, and thus perished.

THE SIEGE OF PARIS.—On Tuesday evening a meeting of the Intervention Council, appointed by the combined associations, was held at Peet's corner, Westminster, to adopt measures for taking prompt steps in the present threatened bombardment of Paris. Dr. Congreve presided, and Mr. Oliver, the representative of the International Democratic Association, reported that his association had passed a resolution recommending that, in the event of the threatened bombardment being carried out by the Germans, a mass meeting be called, to be held by torchlight, to show the horror of the English people. On this, Mr. M'Sweeney moved a resolution to the effect that such course be adopted. Mr. Oliver seconded the motion, and said that his association also suggested that the cry should be raised at the meeting of "To the relief of Paris; to the rescue of France!" After remarks by Mr. Weston, the chairman, and others, on the point as to the time such meeting should be called, the resolution, with the adoption of the motto, was carried as a proposal to be recommended to the general meeting. Mr. Merriman then proposed "That, in the event of the bombardment of Paris, the people of England demand that all pensions hitherto granted to any German Princes concerned, directly or indirectly, in the bombardment shall cease, either to them or their wives and children." Mr. M'Sweeney seconded this, and it was agreed to. It was also agreed if the torchlight meeting in Palace-yard were held after the bombardment, those present should be called upon to form themselves into a deputation to wait upon Mr. Gladstone to request from him a statement of reasons why the British Government did not earlier intervene to prevent such an outrage upon modern civilisation. It was agreed that the adjourned meeting convened for Thursday at the Bell should be held at the Sussex Hotel. The meeting separated at a late hour.



THE CROWN PRINCE OF PRUSSIA AND HIS STAFF AT THE BATTLE OF WORTH: HIS R



THE PRINCE OF SAXE-COBURG AND GOtha AT THE BATTLE OF WORTH: HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS ORDERING THE FINAL CHARGE.

THE LOUNGER.

LORD ENFIELD lately said in a speech which he delivered at some public meeting that we ought to sympathise with the ex-Emperor of the French because he was "long our faithful ally." Was he? Lord Enfield cannot have read the private correspondence which the French authorities are now publishing. Why, at the time Napoleon professed to be our faithful ally he was plotting to get us into a war. Yes, even so. That letter which you published last week and another which was published some days ago prove this. Prussia was to be tempted by proffer of assistance in uniting Germany and the cession of all claims on the part of France to the Rhine provinces, and France, Prussia aiding, was to seize and annex Belgium; albeit England, and, by-the-way, France and Prussia, were under treaty obligations to preserve inviolable the independence and integrity of that kingdom; and (let Lord Enfield remember this), because Prussia refused to play the traitor, the ex-Emperor at once set about preparing to attack Prussia, and when he thought he was fully prepared proclaimed war; and yet Lord Enfield says, and so said Lord Bury, I remember, we ought to sympathise with this ex-Emperor because he was long our faithful ally! Really, it is melancholy, it is vexing, to hear members of Parliament, Peers' sons, and Peers *in esse*, talk such ineffable nonsense. Why, if the ex-Emperor had been ever so faithful an ally of England, what has that to do with the question? Are we to sympathise with a burglar, a murderer, a man who literally has no conscience, and never had any, because, forsooth, we were once in political alliance with him? No, no! my Lord; and were I one of your constituents I should sharply catechise you, put you through a very severe "Civil Service Examination" upon the moral law, before I consented to return you as my representative to Parliament.

The King of Prussia and Von Moltke have, in this wonderful campaign, never made, as far as known, a single mistake. Whatever they planned to do, up to this hour, they have done. But some of our able editors say that the siege of Paris is a mistake. Paris cannot be taken before the winter sets in; and then what will the German army do? They are far from their base; they will run short of supplies; cold, and hunger, and disease will decimate their ranks, &c. Generally this comes from those whose wish is father to the thought. The *Times*, however, had an article the other day pitched in a rather lugubrious tone. But think you that the King and his great General do not know what they are about? Depend upon it, it is no rash, ill-considered thing which they have done. We blundered terribly in the Crimea in not being prepared for the winter. But France is not the Crimea; Von Moltke is not Lord Raglan; nor is the Prussian commissariat under the management of a Duke of Newcastle. The winter clothing will be in camp before the winter sets in, and not be delayed, as much of ours was in the Crimea, till the frost was going; nor will the Prussian commissariat commit such a blunder as ours did, when they sent back to England shiploads of empty wooden cases, whilst at the front no fuel could be got. No! After what has occurred throughout the war we may be quite confident that the commissariat arrangements will be perfect and efficient. Besides, much that is needed is already there. The supply of wood is inexhaustible. The army, therefore, will not want fuel. Moreover, timber being plentiful, such handy fellows as the German soldiers are will be sure to comfortably house themselves in well-warmed huts. And, now, what does the phrase, "far away from their base," which one so often sees in the papers, mean? Their base, it seems to me, as there is no French army that can cut up the Prussian communications, is Eastern France and the whole of Germany. But all this may be safely left to the King and Von Moltke. We may be sure that they have not got into a trap, as some seem to fancy.

There cannot be a doubt, I think, that as soon as Parliament meets there will be a good deal of talk about the unfortunate Captain, and that most likely we shall have a motion made for a Select Committee to investigate the subject; and doubtless it needs investigation, for, as the matter stands before the public now, there can be but one opinion—viz., that somebody, I suspect more than one, grievously blundered, or, as I am disposed to think, sinned against light attainable if not attained. Meanwhile, of course, each party will be trying to shift the responsibility upon its opponents. Sir James Elphinstone has already appeared in the field to free the Conservatives from responsibility, and to heap it upon the heads of the Liberal Government. But Sir James is notoriously an untrustworthy authority in such matters. No man makes wilder statements than he, and no man so constantly allows his feelings to warp his judgment. Of course I do not say that he makes misstatements "of malice aforethought," as the criminal indictments run. Bacon says of the man whose mind is infested by the "idols (i.e., illusions) of the tribe": "The human understanding resembles not a dry right, but admits a tincture of the will, &c., for man believes more readily that which he prefers, &c. In short, his feelings confuse and corrupt his understanding in innumerable and sometimes imperceptible ways." Very true, this; and Sir James is an example of its truth. His mind is "infested" by the "idol" of his tribe—to wit the Conservative tribe. Whether both the political parties are responsible for this terrible disaster, I will not positively decide. As at present advised, I am disposed to think that both are. But it is quite certain that for building the Captain the Conservatives are responsible. It was ordered to be built when the Conservatives were in office, and the lucrative job was given by them to Messrs. Laird. At that time (1866) Sir John Pakington was First Lord of the Admiralty; but I think that I have heard that the Duke of Somerset, before he left office, had consented to allow Captain Coles to realise his ideas. But, however that may be, Sir John goes the final order. Further, there cannot be a doubt—indeed, it is a fact known to everyone who heard or has read the debates of the four or five years before the Conservatives came into power—that they it was who mainly created that public opinion before which, in opposition to their professional advisers, as the *Times* said, they were forced to bow.

And now, Mr. Editor, as the story of the Captain illustrates that party government which Lord Palmerston and Earl Russell, when he was in the House of Commons, used to highly laud, and Mr. Disraeli still now and then panegyrised, I will, in a very abridged form, tell it to your readers. The principles of party action are very simple. You are to support and praise everything your own party does, and deprecate and oppose everything which your opponents do, and always, if possible, stick to your friends. When, some dozen years ago, Mr. Reed was appointed Chief Constructor of the Navy, some person at Chatham Dockyard expected to get the place. Major-General Sir Frederick Smith, the Conservative member for Chatham, the Liberals then being in office, could do no other, as a party man, than attack the Government on the ground of this appointment. The whole of the Conservatives backed up the gallant General, and thus the war began; and for a time it raged so hotly that it was thought Mr. Reed would hardly be able to hold his ground. Subsequently, Captain Cowper Coles came on to the scene with his low freeboard sea-going turret-ships. These Mr. Reed did not favour, and the Duke of Somerset, the First Lord, acted upon the advice of the Chief Constructor. The Conservatives, of course, took up Captain Cowper Coles—Sir John Pakington and Sir James Elphinstone, especially; not that either of them were competent judges in the matter or cared much about it. They pitted Coles against Reed, as a good party move; and for several years, whenever the Navy Estimates came on, the House was sure to get into a fierce discussion about Reed and broadsides, and Coles and sea-going turrets. The debates on the Navy Estimates of that period are studied with the names of Reed and Coles. Here are two *rambles from the sack*:—In 1865 Sir John shouted out, "Why does not the Government go to Captain Cowper Coles at once, and say, 'Your experiment is worth trying; let us see you try your hand at constructing a sea-going turret-ship that shall be fit to meet any vessel that may be matched against her!'" and in the

same debate, Sir James tells us that, though Captain Coles was one of the most scientific men of the day, he could not get a hearing. Well, we all know that by mere reiteration of any principle, however fallacious, you will, in the end, get it supported by the public; and especially will this be so if party spirit is invoked. And so it came to pass that a very strong opinion in favour of Captain Coles's ships was excited in the House on both sides, and, indeed, out of the House, for the *Times* brought its big guns to bear in favour of these ships; and the *Daily News* and the *Standard* echoed the thunders of the *Times*; until at last public opinion, as the *Times* said, became so strong, that, contrary to the opinion of the scientific authorities of the Admiralty, the Board were obliged to consent that Captain Cowper Coles should carry out his idea. Here, then, in a very short form, is the story of the building of the Captain. If I had space I could prove the truth of it by a hundred extracts from "Hansard." The attack upon Mr. Reed, and the advocacy of the sea-going turret-ships, were originally mere party moves. We have proof positive that the attack upon Mr. Reed was so, for when Sir John Pakington became First Lord, and Mr. Reed tendered his resignation, on the ground that Sir John, having so often derided his abilities and proclaimed that he was not fit for the post, could not wish him to retain it, Sir John pooh-poohed all that he had said as mere party tactics, and begged the Chief Constructor to remain; and he having consented, soon afterwards his salary was raised, and a most complimentary resolution was passed by the Board and inserted on its records. Further, Mr. Reed had a claim against the Admiralty for services done before he became Chief Constructor. This claim, whilst the storm against him raged, he was obliged to let lie in abeyance; but the Conservative Board, when he threatened to resign unless it were paid, at once, with the consent of the Treasury, made an order for payment; and last year it appeared in the Estimates, and the Conservative leaders had to defend it. What then? My readers may say it was to party that the cost of this ship and all these lives were sacrificed. To this I answer I draw no inferences; I merely tell the story.

If any proof were needed, Sir, that the French, still uncurbed of their follies, require further purification in the furnace of tribulation, it would be afforded by some of the latest utterances of the Parisian press. I find in the "Diary of a Besieged Resident" a few paragraphs worth quoting and comment. *La France* (the journal founded, and perhaps still owned, by Viscount de la Guéronnière), which has always been a moderate, if, until the revolution of September, an Imperialist publication, still seems to labour under the delusion that there is about Paris something sacred, which the powers supernatural are sure to defend, and says:—"Paris is the capital of France and of the world. Paris besieged is a beautiful, a surprising spectacle. The sky is blue, the atmosphere is pure; this is a happy augury. Fifteen days of patience on the part of the Parisians—fifteen days to arm in the provinces—and the German army will be irreparably compromised. It will then be unable to cut its way out of the circle of fire surrounding it." Will German shells, think you, have any respect for the beauty of the French capital, or will fire spare its elegance more than it would the plainness of Berlin or the ugliness of London, say, were these cities in like plight? And is it not idle to talk of the "circle of fire" that is to consume the Prussians when such circle is much more likely to gird Paris than the legions of King William? We should all regret to see Paris destroyed, and I daresay the Germans would be glad could they avoid being the instruments of destruction; but silly rhodomontade is not calculated to either stay their hand or extinguish the flames their shells may kindle. Still more ridiculous, however, is M. Villemessant, of the *Figaro*, late Imperial flunkey and now Imperial vituperator, who, in a late number, thus concludes two columns of bombast:—"But thou, O country! never diest. Bled in all thy veins by the butchers of the North, thy divine dead mutilated by the heels of brutes, the Christ of nations, for two months nailed on the cross, never hast thou appeared so great and so beautiful. Thou needest this martyrdom, O our mother! to know how we love thee. In order that Paris, in which there is a genius which has given her the empire of the world, should fall into the hands of the barbarians, there must cease to be a God in heaven. As God she exists, and as God she is immortal. Paris will never surrender." When we call to mind the fact that on this kind of stuff the Parisian mind has been fed for some twenty years, it is not, perhaps, much to be wondered at that the vainest of peoples are even yet unable to realise the full extent of the danger that threatens their country and their chief city. Clearly, the French need further hammering on the anvil of suffering; and they are likely to get it. The ultra-Republican papers, too, are every day becoming more virulent and more dangerous. M. Gambetta's assertion that "anarchy can never reign in Paris" to the contrary notwithstanding. M. Blanqui, in his organ, *La Patrie en Danger*, after praising the act of a person of the name of Malet, who, last February, shot an officer who refused to shout "Vive la République!" thus continues:—"I was reminded of this when, the other day, I saw a devil, on the Boulevards, a regiment of rustic peasants. I raised my hat to salute these soldiers of liberty, but there was no response from them. Malet would have raised the képi of one of the captains with a bullet, and he would have done well. Let us be without pity. Vive Marat! We will do justice to ourselves. . . . When the days of Marat return there will be an opening for a new Napoleon; and then, woe to French liberty, whatever may become of French glory! The life of the Republic, about which our democratic friends here are so enthusiastic, will not be worth many months' purchase when the man of Napoleonic stamp appears, and the opportunity for his action arrives.

A correspondent, who thinks that the maxim that we "should see ourselves as others see us" was never more applicable to England than it is at the present juncture, and who is of opinion that "it is of the utmost importance, in order that we may rightly appreciate the conduct of our own Government in the attitude they have adopted, that we should learn in what estimation this conduct is held on the Continent," sends me some extracts from a pamphlet recently published in Brussels, under the title of "Germany and the Neutrals," by an anonymous, but evidently German, author. In some respects I agree with my correspondent; but, at the same time, I cannot concur in his implied respect for anonymously expressed Continental opinions, and I certainly think that the extracts he furnishes go a good way to show that Frenchmen have not by any means a monopoly of loose reasoning, misapprehension, ignorance, and foolish talk. In this German writer all these characteristics are pretty fully developed. On whose authority, for instance, is it that he asserts that Lord Granville did nothing to hinder the war, or now "wishes to impose conditions upon Germany?" Lord Granville used his best endeavours to prevent the war, and he has given no indication of any wish whatever to "impose conditions" upon Germany, or upon anybody else, whatever the Ministers of other neutral Powers may have done, may not have done, or may wish to do. If foreign writers confound the spouters at Trafalgar square meetings with British statesmen, and mistake the utterances of these men for the expression of public opinion in this country, as the pamphleteer seems to do, that only shows their ignorance of English affairs and their unfitness to discuss the motives and feelings of such a nation as Great Britain. I for one cannot hold the opinions of writers of this stamp as entitled to much respect, and am tolerably easy in my mind as to what they think or say of us. The passages referred to are as follow:—

Those neutral Powers who could not—nay, would not—prevent France from declaring war upon Prussia, and who unquestionably would not have hindered France from seizing the left bank of the Rhine from Germany, and from concluding afterwards a treaty with the Grand Duke of Luxembourg, would they now prevent Germany from dictating conditions of peace to France? Have Prussia or Germany ever raised objections when Russia, France, or England made conquests with or without apparent right? What would these neutral Powers have said in reply to such objections? Why, then, do they arraign themselves this right at the present moment? In truth, the present English Cabinet is not acting better than did Lord Castlereagh, of unhappy memory, in the year 1814. What would England

have done if France, without other form of proceeding, had occupied Belgium when she was disarmed? England would have cried aloud to the four quarters of the globe, and implored the other Powers, and Prussia above all, to come to the aid of Belgium; but England would have done no more than she did at the time of the annexation of Savoy and Nice and of the successive revolutions of Poland.—[Query, does not the writer mean partitions of Poland?]—In 1855 her succour would have been of very little avail to the "sick man" in the East if Napoleon had not supplied an army. What has she done for Italy? She has been lavish of fine protestations of friendship and sympathy, just as she was to the Poles, but her actions have amounted to nothing! Italy owes her unity to Cavour, Napoleon, Garibaldi, and Sadowa. If Antwerp were once safe in French hands, it is not England, nor Russia, Austria, or Italy which will recover it any more than these Powers would assure the independence and liberty of Belgium. It is only Germany, strong and united, which could do this. It was by reckoning upon this shopkeeping spirit and on the physical weakness of the English nation that the Government proceeded to sign a fresh treaty, stipulating that the other belligerent Powers should assist powerful England against whoever should violate the neutrality of Belgium. England has asked Parliament for 20,000 men for this purpose, almost as many troops as compose the contingent of the Grand Duchy of Baden, but we doubt very much if this number has had much influence upon either France or Germany; we even believe that, if the French marshals had judged it expedient to make a diversion by Belgium, the latter would have had to wait a long time for this assistance, just as much as Prussia, in 1866, waited for the contingent of the Duchy of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, or Austria that of the principality of Lichtenstein. We have the right to demand now what the neutral Powers would have done if Prussia had accepted the propositions of M. Benedetti? Who would have snatched from the hands of Napoleon the left bank of the Rhine comprising Belgium? And now that Prussia has rejected these propositions, and that she is obliged, in consequence, to engage in the present war, what is the gratitude of the neutrals? We see what it is. Yes! Lord Granville is a great man—bids fair even to become another Castlereagh. This great man actually wishes, with the assistance of the other neutrals (a word which is beginning to assume a peculiar signification) to impose conditions upon Germany, who, though attacked in the first instance, is victorious at the present moment; he wishes to prescribe for her conditions of peace, just as Louis XIV. did to the Elector of Brandenburg, at the peace of St. Germain, June 29, 1679. The neutrals should remember that the sorrowful words of the great Elector, "*Exoritur aliquis nostris ex ossibus ultor*," are verified; and let them reflect that it is no longer the Elector of Brandenburg who meets them face to face, but the whole of Germany reunited. Yes! England is a purely mercantile nation, converting every turn of affairs to her own profit (*exploitant toute circonstance a son profit*). The proof is furnished by the Alabama affair and by the statements of the Count de Palikao to the Corps Législatif when he said that England had accepted the provision of warlike arms, just as formerly she did the supply of coal to the vessels of war. But there is nothing in this that need cause us astonishment, since an Englishman gets well paid for the outrage inflicted on his honour! (*se fait bien payer l'outrage fait à son honneur conjugal*.) Hence the reason that the neutrals think it quite natural that Germany should get paid in hard cash for the blood of her sons spilled on the field of battle. Our answer to this shall be that we are not in the habit of selling our blood, and that it can never be paid for by all the gold and silver of France. Will gold dry up our tears? Will it console our bleeding hearts? As the neutrals have not been able to save us from war, as they will not do it for the future, and as they do not give us any succour, we know what we have to do and how we must take care of ourselves in future.

I quite expected, Sir, that somebody would come forward to indicate a method of escaping the unpleasant consequences attendant on correspondence by means of postal cards by the hint of having recourse to writing in cypher. In fact, I had made up my mind to do so myself, as in my character of a Lounger the interpretation of cryptographs has always been a pleasant method of loitering away lazy hours by what is really hard work, but looks like play. The second column of the *Times* has always a fascination for me, and Mr. Edgar Poe's story of "The Gold Beetle" was the delight of my earlier years. However, somebody has been beforehand with me, and I have at this moment received a neat little pamphlet (which can be inclosed without folding in a fashionable square envelope), entitled "The Art of Secret Writing Explained and Illustrated by Numerous Examples. By an Expert." On the cover it is stated that the little book is intended to be useful under the new postal law; and I can assure you that the contents of the thirty-one pages are not only immensely interesting in themselves, but are wonderfully suggestive, especially the dictionary plan of cryptography at the end of the book. Indeed, this method would obviate the one objection, that a person having the book might learn how to decipher any correspondence founded on its examples; but there is, after all, little to be feared on that score. The too-watchful guardian who should intercept a post-card on its way to the nearest pillar, and, reading on it *Lunhreyppsthsyng*, puzzle his brains as to its meaning, would require hours of study to make out that it read "Look in here as you pass this evening;" and then what would become of him if a different method were used each time? Even as an amusement, a kind of postal recreation, this cryptographic game will probably attain popularity, and we shall all become "experts," if we only have patience.

I hear that the success of "Tom Hood's Comic Annual" has warranted on the part of the proprietors an increased expenditure this year, in order to make it better than ever. Among other well-known authors it will count Mr. Leland (Hans Breitmann), whose contribution will be the first of his writings to appear originally in an English periodical. The artistic staff will be of the first excellence, and the engraving and printing will be by the Brothers Dalziel.

The painters and decorators, I learn, are completing their work in the fine-art galleries for the International Exhibition of 1871. I understand that it is the intention of her Majesty's Commissioners to invite artists and exhibitors of all fine-art works to inspect these galleries shortly. I have been asked to state that artists, manufacturers, and others who have not expressed their desire to be admitted as exhibitors in 1871, are requested to do so before Nov. 10 next.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

THE MAGAZINES.

Macmillan's contains one rather "small" partisan paper, entitled "Belgium in 1848 and 1870." But the essays on "What John Knox did for Scotch Education," by Mr. J. M. Lindsay, and that by the Rev. Stopford A. Brooke, about Mr. Ruskin's "Lectures on Art," are of high quality. Mr. Brooke writes scarcely a line, if a line, with which I do not agree. It is particularly pleasing to come upon a writer who can distinguish between admiring what another man says and accepting it for truth. Mr. Brooke rightly observes that some of Mr. Ruskin's criticisms (contained in "Modern Painters") upon poetry are very fine; but at the same time he guards himself from being supposed to swallow them whole, or even to any considerable extent. Unless I am very much mistaken in the drift of some words casually spoken by Mr. Ruskin to a friend of mine, he himself would gladly withdraw some of those criticisms. Professor Seeley, in continuing his papers on "The English Revolution of the Nineteenth Century," shows the same wonderful clearness of vision as we have most of us learned to admire in him. It is, as he says, perfectly plain that the national decision upon the Irish Church Establishment is a *projudicium* upon its English sister. *Kátrave kal Piáτροκλος* ("Patroclus also perished") is his sufficient comment. It is noticeable that the article "Are We Ready?" betrays its Scotch authorship by the usual unmistakable touch in the use of the future conditional, "we would" (instead of *should*) have forty-eight hours to settle matters in."

The *Student* has some felicitous essays. Sir John Lubbock's "Origin of Civilisation" and Professor Tyndall on "The Scientific Use of the Imagination" are both acutely handled. There is too often a touch of insolence in Mr. Tyndall's writing, and one of these days he will "put his foot in it." In the other paper Captain Burton is assigned to his proper place as a keen observer whose inferences are never to be received without great caution, and Sir John Lubbock's rash dicta about the morality and religion of savages receive the treatment that is obviously their due. I was much amused lately with a sentence in some great traveller's book. He said that certain savages exhibited not the least trace of religious susceptibility, and in the very same breath added that after he, the wonderful white man, was gone they would probably pay honour to his memory as if he were a supernatural person.

Mr. John Lubbock constantly writes in a vein of similar inconsistency. These "scientific" fellows nearly all want their comb out. It was Sir John Lubbock who, in company with Dr. Playfair, supported last Session the amiable proposal that all married couples should be bound to return the fact of their cohabitation in the census. What—what shall we be asked to return next?

In *Once a Week* Mr. Hain Friswell's "One of Two" is, I am told, a very readable story. The author has done well to admit only, at once, that the *motif* of his plot is French. The "Table Talk" is still sadly inferior to what it was in the days of Mr. Paus, who made it such an amusing "feature" that it was always the first thing I turned to—sure of getting a laugh out of it on opening my parcel of magazines. Now we get most extraordinary *ditto* in it, coupled with second-hand matter. Shakespeare is always to be quoted—"what on earth does that mean?" and, when quoted, he excels all others. All other poets, is "Shakespeare to be quoted?" and, if so, will he "excel all others?" Captain Boxer, for example? The "when quoted, he excels all others" is delicious. Please observe that it is not till he is quoted that he "excels." On the very same page I find the following:—"Geography is best learned by studying the maps." What on earth is a "map of war"? Even if such a thing existed, how could anyone "learn geography" by "studying" it? Surely a fellow must carry a little geography to the map if it is to be of much use to him. Really, I cannot make out this slipshod stuff. Take another specimen:—"Nelson's fame is perpetuated, perhaps, in ballads; but not that of our great Captain. Yet the French and Germans both have great and popular modern patriotic songs which are in every mouth." Now, just notice here, the "perhaps" (italicised by me), and the "Yet" (ditto). The "perhaps" is simply idle; and the "Yet" is absolutely meaningless. It is like the police-reporter's occasional "but." "A tall, but respectable-looking, gentleman," &c. The "Papers of Posterity" ought "to be good," and in parts the first is clever, but it is unguarded everywhere, rather coarse in certain passages, and not at all carefully written.

Good Words is more than up to its usual mark, and Mr. Helps's "Short Essays" are a great attraction. But the author has once or twice fallen far short of himself. Take that curious instance, which I referred to at the time, in which he put forward as a novelty the old and obvious idea that bashfulness results from the fear of being misunderstood. This month Mr. Helps agrees with those who say that men seldom, or ever, die prematurely of overwork. . . . It was a wonderfully shrewd saying—that we do not die of the work we do, but of that which we find we cannot do. Men die prematurely of chagrin." Now, what a hash is this! It is quite a common thing for men to die of mere overwork—prosperous contented tradesmen, lawyers, and the like. Follett died of overwork. The late Sergeant Wrangham died from the same cause a great deal sooner than he need have done. I could name, offhand, two living barristers, both eminently successful men, who have retired upon their enormous fortunes because they were told that overwork was diminishing their chance of life: and it obviously was. Southey's decay arose from sheer overwork, and not from chagrin. The Iron Duke would probably have lived till ninety if his labours had been less. Dickens, say what you please, died prematurely of over-exertion of various kinds, though he would, perhaps, certainly have died at last from the same form of apoplexy. In fact, death and prostration from sheer overwork, in the midst of prosperity, are so frequent that I really cannot account for so cautious a writer as Mr. Helps committing himself thus. What follows is still worse. An unappreciated or unsuccessful worker may suffer from chagrin, and may die of this alone; but as an unsuccessful worker is usually led to go on working more and more, and rapidly increase the pressure of the steam—why, then, if the boiler bursts, does he not die of overwork pushed forward under the spur of former failure? Suppose he dies just when success is in sight, or has even come (a case which we may well believe is not rare), does he not die of overwork? In the case of Sidney Herbert there was chagrin; but it was want of rest that, I believe, killed him. What is the chief cause of the illness of Florence Nightingale? of Mr. Bright? How many thousands—yes, thousands—of thriving commercial people are there now whose lives are being cut down many years by aggravated dyspepsia, caused chiefly by want of more frequent rest? "I contend," concludes Mr. Helps, "that men die, when they die of any mental disease, not from overwork, but from the sense of failure in their work." The phrase "mental disease" puzzles the case still farther; so much, indeed, that I must drop it. What is a "mental disease" in this case? What this excellent writer says about "chagrin" seems to me equally questionable. It is not true that men bear with comparative "complacency" disappointments which they have had no share in causing. On the contrary, the bitterness of all defeats are those which we receive, first, from treachery; secondly, from "that stupidity against which the gods themselves are powerless." Mr. Helps might successfully and usefully maintain much narrower and more guarded propositions; but these are outrageous. Let us only hope Mr. Helps will not go and act upon his own ideas of what hard work cannot do; for I should feel his loss like that of a personal friend.

I once quoted in this column some words of Gervinus (the German historian) written in 1852, predicting that Europe would be overthrown by a great revolutionary war somewhere between 1880 and 1900. I now beg leave to quote from the same source a passage (much abbreviated) which is peculiarly applicable to the present crisis. Having sketched the political characteristics and tendencies of the present age, he says:—

The great development of this remarkable era will principally depend on two nations—France and Germany. We have seen France driven hither and thither for centuries between her Teutonic and Celtic-Romanic elements, vacillating between Catholicism and Protestantism, religion and freethinking, superstition and atheism, rudeness and excess of refinement, remaining behind at one moment and hurrying forward the next. . . . She cherishes despotic institutions under every form of government, and yet is in the habit of exalting insurrection as a right; she is not constant to Monarchy, not faithful to the Constitution, and not prepared for a Republic. The French everywhere betray as much hatred of a Republic as they seek for an exaggerated measure of freedom, and subject all at last to a new Roman Dictatorship or Papacy. Their motto is, "All by the people," their practice, "Nothing for the people." . . . It is now a question whether France shall, like Italy in the time of Machiavelli, sink under the weight of a political curse, and, in that spirit which nothing can satisfy, prove herself as incapable of obedience as of freedom.

Having then referred to the difficulties in the way of the working out of German unity, he says:—

When it does take place (and we may trust much to the determined and healthy nature of the people that it will), then Germany will occupy the important position hitherto held by France. In this position she will be even more unable and more unwilling than England to play the part of a conquering State. The aim of her policy will rather be to dissolve the great Monarchies into federal states, which would combine the advantages of both great and small States, and offer a secure pledge for universal freedom, and for the peaceful dissemination of every kind of knowledge.

I venture to hope the almost prophetic prescience shown in these extracts will excuse their length.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

I am quite certain that the intention of the management at the Globe is to give a pretty entertainment which shall not be cavilled at by purists and shall make the theatre the head-quarters of intellectual and decent people. Mr. Walter Lacy said as much in his neat address, wherein he delicately snubbed the vulgarity of the stage, and traced the pedigree of his pretty manageress to the famous Alleyne who founded Dulwich College, originally intended as a charity for the profession, but, like many another charity, turned into the wrong channel. So far so good. Burlesque must be put down, vulgarity must be crushed under the managerial heel. Good taste and pure art must flourish at the Globe. Mr. Walter Emden, the son of a famous ex-manager, has turned an

early, comfortless theatre into a rich and comfortable lounge. He has decorated the theatre, with the aid of Mr. Bradwell, in excellent taste; indeed, everything has been done that could be done to persuade the public with something more than mere words how earnest is the management to practise what it preaches. But when I come to the programme I find that a little judgment—perhaps a trifle of common sense—is wanted. The famous comedy of "The Taming of the Shrew," by William Shakespeare, has been turned into a ridiculous farce, and all the silly errors and monstrous business are repeated which have worried critics and men of taste since the dreary adaptation of "Katharine and Petruchio" was introduced to the stage. As for Miss Alleyne herself, she surprised me by her improvement and by her evident industry and good taste. She was dressed well, she acted modestly and with discretion, and if she occasionally appeared weak it was because Mr. Fairclough was such a noisy, blustering Petruchio, so full of rant and so determined to make himself heard, that he belittled poor Katharine into insignificance. The Petruchio of Mr. Fairclough is a very bad performance: the kind of performance which is so sad in its effects that it makes the ignorant utterly disgusted with Shakespeare. Then came Mr. Palgrave Simpson's "Marco Spada," a piece which attracted some attention at the Princess's, but which will not draw a penny at the Globe. Mr. Walter Lacy, I am sure, is fond of Popinelli; but the character is worth nothing, and the acting of the play from first to last was not worthy of any consideration. A change in the programme is imperatively demanded, if anything is to be made out of the new and re-decorated Globe.

The Gaiety has revived "Zampa" with great completeness, and with good luck it will attract enthusiastic houses for a few weeks. More could hardly be expected. Mr. Santley is admirable, but no baritone or contralto ever made a house. The opera, with the aid of charming mounting, beautiful dresses, and so on, goes very nicely. Madame Florence Lancia sings well, so does Mr. W. H. Cummings; and Mr. Charles Lyall surprises the audience, not because he sings like a musician (everyone knows that), but because of his very humorous acting. After "Zampa," I hear that Mr. Santley will appear in "The Waterman."

The two-act comedy at the ROYALTY, by the late Mr. Rophino Lacy, called "Wealth," is not up to the Royalty standard. Miss Henrietta Hodson is so charming an actress that all the authors of the day should be at her feet with new plays. These dream-pieces are always vexatious. So vexatious was "Wealth," that the audience on Saturday hissed the dream portion because they did not understand it, and applauded it at the conclusion, when they discovered they had made fools of themselves. Miss Hodson is the only artist in the company, and she has little to do in comparison with her extreme cleverness. I should like to see a new comedy and a new burlesque at once.

Mr. E. T. Smith has opened the SURREY with a thrilling melodrama of the old-fashioned Surrey type. It is beneath criticism; but contains a situation which is identical with the railway murder in the HOLBORN melodrama of "The Odds." The house is delighted with this and other exciting scenes, all of the established Surrey pattern. Miss Pauncefort returns to her old post, and acts better than ever; but, with this exception and that of Mr. Charles Harcourt, the acting is not entitled to very much consideration. There is a burlesque afterwards, which causes Miss Caroline Parkes to dance and sing.

Because Mr. F. B. Chatterton has not enough to do with successful DRURY LANE, he must needs help Mr. B. Webster out of the wood with the ADELPHI and PRINCESS'S. I can give a dozen instances in which such attempts have failed. One theatre is quite enough for one manager to look after; and I think Mr. Chatterton had better leave the Adelphi and Princess's alone. "The Raparee" will be withdrawn and "The Peep o' Day" revived at the Princess's, and Madame Celeste intends to say farewell at the Adelphi.

The COURT THEATRE, St. James-street, will open in December, under the management of Miss Litton.

SEVERE FIGHTING BEFORE METZ.

MARSHAL BAZAINE continues to make desperate efforts to break the German lines, but always fails in his object. His last great attempt was made on the 7th inst., and is thus described by the correspondent of the *Daily News*:—"About one o'clock I was sitting at lunch with two staff officers in an arbour in General Künner's garden, when the guns of the Prussian batteries by Senneceourt began to give tongue. 'Only a few Frenchmen loafing round Ladonchamps,' observed one of the officers. 'There will be nothing serious to-day; there is too much mist in the valley.' Certainly it seemed as if he must be right. When I was on the heights at Senneceourt I could not see the villages in the valley below, nor the cathedral of Metz. Our constant landmark next to St. Quentin was utterly invisible. But the roar of the guns grew louder and louder, and then came first one great boom, and then another, from the big guns lying behind, at Freneceourt. The officers flinched, but still would not own that anything was the matter. But their nonchalance gave way when an aide-de-camp came up at the gallop, spreading the alarm everywhere as he went, and dashing on to the General's quarters for instructions to guide the front. In five minutes more we were all in the saddle, and, after a short gallop, were looking out on the scene of action from the fringe of the wood in front of the Châteaux of Briex and Amelange. That the reader may understand the tactics of Bazine and the manner in which they were foiled it will be necessary to give a brief description of the ground. From Metz to Mézières there is a long trough, with a flat bottom—the alluvial margin of the Moselle. This tract is about four English miles wide. Across this bottom, at the narrowest part thus formed, lies a series of villages—the two Tapes and St. Rémy, with Maxe and Ladonchamps respectively slightly to the east and west front. More or less, there were Prussian troops in all these. Bazine had laid his scheme with great art. Covered by the dense fog, he had made his dispositions with such adroitness that when it lifted, a little past one, his arrangements were already all but complete. In the first instance, he directed a strong assault on Ladonchamps. The landwehr outpost held the place as if they were 10,000 instead of 100 men, and the French sent their infantry swarming into it while their artillery played upon it. 'Only an attempt to reoccupy Ladonchamps,' quoth a friend of the staff, as he lit a fresh cigar; 'the guns will teach them the folly of that, and we can back to our labour.' Certainly it seemed, if any argument could be convincing, that the Prussian artillery must be so. The white spurts of smoke were visible all round the valley. On the right front the batteries at Senneceourt were hard at work, and also others nearer us on the flat, while the great guns at Freneceourt were sending shells at a low range right over Ladonchamps in among the advancing French. Then, on our left, at Amelange, two other batteries were maintaining a semi-cross fire; and from the bluffs on the other side of the Moselle, between Olgy and Malroy, the Prussian field artillery were also roaring. The attack on Ladonchamps was a diversion. Suddenly the villages of Grandes and Petites Tapes, of St. Rémy and Maxe, were overwhelmed by a cataract of Frenchmen. The 69th Landwehr, in St. Rémy, would not fall back, as it should have done in common prudence, but stood up there in the street till the French, having played upon it with their artillery, and rained upon it chassepots and mitrailleuse bullets, finally pushed backwards the shattered remnant on to the *chaussée* by dint of sheer numbers. The fusilier battalion of the 58th occupied Grandes Tapes, and it occupies Grandes Tapes now, but the occupation consists of the dead and the wounded. The battalion would not give ground, and may be said to have been annihilated as it stood, the men with their backs to the wall and their faces to the foe. The other battalions of the same regiment suffered terribly. So far, then, Bazine had succeeded. He had reconquered the chain of villages athwart the valley, and had got a few batteries of artillery out to their front

to reply to the Prussian fire. But the *status quo* he neither wished to nor could retain. The Prussian artillery, throwing its projectiles from three sides of the parallelogram, interfered with the comfortable realisation of the latter conception. As regarded the former, it seemed clear that Bazine would not have done what he had if he did not contemplate something more. That something I have not the remotest doubt was a sortie to establish connections with Thionville. His tactics were well conceived. From St. Rémy and the two Tapes he kept the Prussian fire engrossed, both musketry and artillery. He sent forward from Grandes Tapes great swarms of tirailleurs, who fared extremely ill at the hands of the landwehr men. But, besides this, he massed a great mass of men. There must have been nearly 50,000 in all on the bank of the Moselle under cover of the houses of Maxe, and he sent them forward to cut through the Prussian environment where it was weakest close to the river. The moment was a critical one. The landwehr had all been sent forward against the villages, with the exception of one brigade that was in reserve. But the 10th Army Corps had been crossing the pontoon bridge, and massing between the river and Amelange. Their General, Von Voigts, was in command of the day's operations, and he gave the order for several regiments to advance. It was a sight never to be forgotten. First came the fusiliers, extending at a rapid run into skirmishing order, and covering the whole plain with their long thin lines. Then the dense columns of companies of the Grenadiers, the bands playing and the colours unfurled—unwonted sight. But all the work was not left for the infantry to do. The artillery left the villages alone, and concentrated their fire on the advancing columns of the French by the Moselle. Bazine is singularly weak in field artillery, and the only reply was from the sullen sides of St. Julien or from the ramparts of St. Eloy. But the mitrailleuse venomously sounded its angry whirr, making the skirmishers recoil nervously as they crossed the line of fire, and tearing chasms in the fronts of the solid masses of which they were the forerunners. The artillery and the skirmishers were enough for the French. The dense columns staggered and then broke. Through my glass I could see a continuous *sauve qui peut* into the village of Maxe. But when they had once got stone and lime between them and the Prussians, the French were obstinate and would go no further. In vain the Prussian artillery fired on the villages, advancing closer and closer in alternate order of batteries, with a precision and rapidity that could not have been exceeded on Woolwich-common. That obstinate battery in front of Grandes Tapes would not cease, and the French tirailleurs still lined the *chaussée* in its front. By this time it was nearly four o'clock. A gallant captain of cavalry pulled up as he galloped past me to swear at the French for spoiling his dinner, which had been ordered for four. Alas! the captain will want no more dinners. He had not gone a hundred yards to my right when a shell from St. Julien fell and burst right before him, and blew himself and his horse into fragments. This same shell disturbed a hare, which bounced from its form and scampered across the battle-field right in a line with the gunfire. The landwehr men roared at the sight, amid the dropping chassepots; and, but for the restraint of the officer, I believe that several would have quitted the shelter of the intrenchments to go in chase. As we stood in this suspense a staff officer galloped along the front line with orders for a general advance to take the villages by storm. The advance, he told me, was to consist of four brigades of the landwehr, with two brigades of the 10th Army Corps supporting. In a few minutes more the command came sounding along the line, and the men sprang from their cover and went forward with that steady quickstep so characteristic of the Prussian marching. The shells from the battery in front of Grandes Tapes tore through the line, the mitrailleuse and chassepots bullets poured against it their leaden hail; but still the landwehr, silent and stern, went steadily to the front. I have been under fire many times, but I never knew a more furious fire than that to which the centre of this line was exposed. General von Brandenstein, commanding the third brigade of the landwehr, was shot down as he rode close to me, and several of his staff were wounded. At length the intrenchments were reached, behind which were lying the shattered remnants of the 59th and 58th Landwehr. The fraternisation consisted in the cry of 'Hurrah, Preussen!' and then 'Vorwärts—immer, vorwärts,' and the line threw itself to its front in a run. The gunners from the battery, brave men and stubborn, had barely time to run round the corner before the landwehr were upon them. The guns they left perforce. In the villages the French made a last stand, but it had been better for them that they had run away at first. The landwehr, with less of the conventional warrior in them than the Line, are not so much inclined to give quarter as are the professional soldiers. With many a Frenchman the shirt consisted of a bayonet thrust. They fought like demons in the narrow ways of the villages, and used the mitrailleuses with rare judgment and effect. But then came the steady inexorable stride forward of the landwehr, the bayonet lent force with that huge thigh and back power which is the leading characteristic in an athletic sense of the Prussian physique, and the villages were cleared of all save victors, dead, and wounded.

THE BISHOP OF MANCHESTER, preaching at Radcliffe, touched upon the war, and spoke especially of the wonderful development in Paris of vice, libertinism, and profligacy. He said that, splendid and beautiful as Paris was architecturally, social and political immorality had long been eating at its heart, so that it had become a moral plague-spot in Europe. He desired to avoid sitting in judgment over the unfortunate city, but it was difficult to help seeing that in regard to it the story of Sodom and Gomorrah was being repeated. It mattered little whether the instruments of judgment were fire and brimstone from heaven or the shot and shell of a hostile army. The effect was the same in both cases.

THE OLD NEWSPAPER STAMP.—The old newspaper stamp, abolished on Friday, Sept. 30, had an existence of 153 years. In the year 1712 Queen Anne sent a message to the House of Commons complaining of the publication of seditious papers and factious rumours, by which means designing men had been able to sink credit, and the innocent had suffered. On Feb. 12 in that year a Committee of the whole House was appointed to consider the best means for stopping the then existing abuse of the liberty of the press. The evil referred to had existence in the political pamphlets of the period. A tax upon the press was suggested as the best means of remedying the evil; and, for the purpose of avoiding a storm of opposition, the impost was tacked on to a bill for taxing soaps, parchment, linens, silks, calicoes, &c. The result of the tax was the discontinuance of many of the favourite papers of the period, and the amalgamation of others into one publication. The Act, passed in June, 1712, came into operation in the month of August following, and continued for thirty-two years. The stamp was red, and the design consisted of the rose, shamrock, and thistle, surmounted with a crown. In the *Spectator* of June 10, 1712, Addison makes reference to this subject, and predicts great mortality among "our weekly historians." He also mentions that a facetious friend had described the said mortality as "the fall of the leaf." The witty Dean Swift, in his *Journal to Stella*, under date of Aug. 7, speaks of Grub-street as being dead and gone. According to his report, the new stamps had made and havoc with the *Observer*, the *Flying Post*, the *Examiner*, and the *Melley*. Twelve years afterwards—namely, in 1724—the House of Commons had under consideration the practice of certain printers, who had evaded the operation of the Stamp Act by printing the news upon paper between the two sizes mentioned by the law and entering them as pamphlets, on which the duty to be paid was 3s. for each edition. Its deliberations culminated in a resolution to charge 1d. for every sheet of paper "on which any journal, mercury, or any other newspaper whatever shall be printed, and for every half-sheet thereof the sum of one halfpenny sterling." In 1761 the stamp duty upon newspapers was made 1d., or 24s. 8d. for 1000 sheets. The next change in the stamp duty was effected on May 28, 1776, when Lord North advanced the price from 1d. to 1½d. Another alteration was made on Aug. 12, 1789. On this occasion the stamp was increased from 1½d. to 2d. In 1794 the stamp went up to 2½d., and in May, 1797, to 3½d. The highest rate of the stamp was obtained in 1815, when the amount was 4d. After this date a period of decline ensued. In the reign of William IV. an Act was passed for the reduction of stamp duty upon newspapers from 4d. to 1d., and ½d. upon any supplement. This Act came into operation on Sept. 15, 1836, from which date the rise of the cheap paper era may be dated. The next improvement occurred in 1855, when the compulsory use of the stamp was abolished, save and except as a means of passing the paper through the post. During the last Session we had the latest touch of Stamp Act legislation, when it was decided to determine the operation of the old Act, and to inaugurate a new order of things, more in accordance with the liberal spirit of the age.



FRENCH FISHING BOATS GOING TO SEA — FROM A PICTURE BY R. HAYES, R.N.A.

FRENCH FISHING-BOATS GOING TO SEA.

We don't suppose that the troubles of France have as yet hindered her fishermen from pursuing their adventurous avocation; the Germans, luckily, cannot touch them at sea. So we presume they still launch their frail barques, and go in quest of the scaly harvest, just as Mr. Hayes has depicted them doing. This picture attracted a good deal of attention when exhibited at the Suffolk-street Gallery, and deservedly, for it is really a very excellent piece of work, and shows that the artist who produced it is entitled to rank among the foremost marine painters of the day.

GENERAL STEINMETZ.

Now that the great German army is engaged in the investment of Paris, one General whose name was intimately associated with that of Prince Frederick Charles in the early successes of the war is no longer retained in command. Reports have been circulated that the reason for which the "Old Lion" Steinmetz has been sent to Posen with a civil command was a too independent determination to fight and win battles when his instructions were merely to harass the enemy. It is said that both he and the Prince, by their precipitation and disregard of the orders for the plan of the campaign issued by Count Von Moltke, occasioned much trouble; and that Steinmetz was very near confusing the strategical movements previously determined on by his ardour. He would understand no military tactics that did not aim at immediate victory; and so the King and his wary advisers were compelled to administer rebuke, and to reward the long and faithful services of the General with the command of a province; and he will probably not be heard of again in connection with the present war. We have the satisfaction of publishing the Portrait of this old warrior, who was born, at Eisenach, in 1796. In 1807 his parents took up their abode at Berlin, and when he was old enough to think of a career he chose the military life, for which he at once began to study, so that in 1813 he carried a sword in the 1st Regiment of Guards, which was with the King at Breslau. From this he became Second Lieutenant in the 1st Prussian Infantry, and was in the campaigns of 1813 and 1814, taking part in the engagements at Laon and at Paris. After this he rose rapidly in the service, and in 1818 became principal officer of the corps of Guards, holding offices in the military college from 1820 to 1823, and from 1825 to 1827 in the topographical department of the War Office. In 1835 he was again promoted, and in 1839 commanded in the landwehr battalions of Düsseldorf. Two years later he took command of

GENERAL VON STEINMETZ, LATE COMMANDER OF THE FIRST GERMAN ARMY.

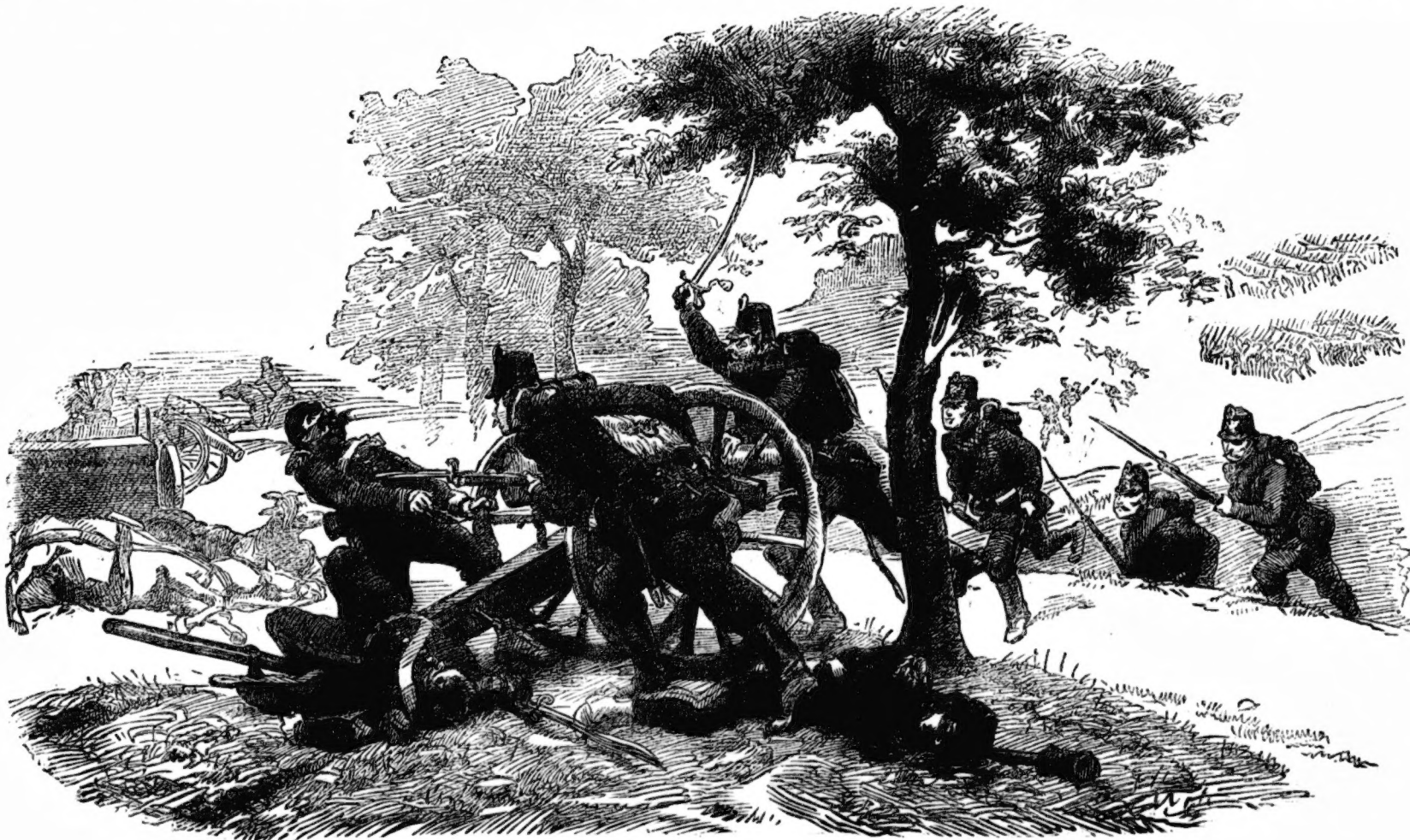
the regiment of reserve guards. In various regiments, and always distinguished as a soldier of energy, the representative of the old fighting element, Steinmetz continued to hold honourable positions in the army, which during his term of service underwent such important changes. In 1863 he became General Commander of an Army Corps, and had a mission in Prussian Poland, whither he has now gone to render good service at a critical period. Of course, he was

always within very limited compass; most of them are short, and appeared at long intervals, many of them in the pages of the "Revue des Deux Mondes," by which periodical a contribution of Mérimée's was always greedily coveted and gladly welcomed. Everything he wrote was the result of infinite painstaking, but he skilfully contrived to exclude from his works all signs of effort, thus attaining to that perfection of literary labour which is the appearance of perfect ease. As racy in conversation as in print, he

at Königgratz in the heat of the battle; and, with almost undiminished energy, he seems to have opened the present tremendous campaign by a series of onslaughts, which, in other circumstances, might have been of enormous value. Whenever fighting was to be done it was policy to send the "Old Lion" of the Prussian army; but he could not temporise before the enemy, and so work has been found for him again in the command of the province where he has already done much service.

DEATH OF PROSPER MERIMÉE.

M. PROSPER MERIMÉE, French Academician, accomplished scholar, learned antiquary, elegant writer, brilliant wit, and charming companion, has just passed away at Cannes, where, during the latter part of his life, a pulmonary affection had compelled him to take refuge for those months of the year which he found too inclement in Paris. There are few French writers of fiction whose works are better known in England than some of M. Mérimée. The book on which he most prided himself, or, at least, for which he had the greatest affection, "Colomba," one of the most perfect novels of that class which exists in any language, has repeatedly, during the last thirty years, been translated into English, and has been published and republished in various forms. His "Chronique de Charles IX.," little more than a fragment, is an admirable example of what historical romance ought to be. Of historical sketches, many English readers will have a pleasant recollection of his "Episode de l'Histoire de Russie," and his "Etudes sur l'Histoire Romaine." His genius as a writer, and his works as a whole, have been repeatedly taken as the subject of serious criticism and high praise; and if the spirit and tendency of two or three of his books have afforded grounds for censure, and have caused regret to his friends, this is not the moment, when he is just laid in the grave, to dwell upon his errors. In all his writings he gave proof of the highest literary skill. Careful of his fame as a writer, a severe critic of his own productions, he did not, like too many French authors during the last forty years, squander himself in countless octavos. He wrote little, and his whole works



CAPTURE OF A GUN BY GERMAN JAGERS IN THE COMBAT NEAR ARTHENAY.

was greatly sought after in the choicest intellectual circles of Paris. He had travelled and observed much and had remembered a great deal, and his powers as a narrator invested his reminiscences with an extraordinary fascination. One now in exile will deeply mourn his loss. A great lover of Spain; a diligent student of its language, literature, peculiarities, and traditions, he passed long periods in that country, was most intimate with the family of Montijo, and one of the earliest friends—almost a preceptor—of the child whom a strange fate was afterwards to place upon an Imperial throne. He lived to see her fall from it, and he lived no longer. His intimacy with the Countess of Téba, and her strong affection for him, which dated from her early childhood, were so well known that when her marriage with the Emperor was announced he was looked upon as a man destined to immense Court influence, and to whom the highest posts would be open. The perspective was not attractive to one of Mérimée's independent character. "I have been on my knees to her," he jocosely said to a friend, at the moment when Paris was ringing with the news, "and have implored her to register a vow that she will never grant anything I ask. It is the only way in which I can escape the importunity of a host of applicants." Soon after the marriage he was made a Senator. His means were not large; the addition to his income must have been acceptable, and he certainly had no reason to decline, through modesty, an honour indiscriminately lavished on numbers far less worthy. The last person I spoke with who had lately seen Mérimée was Prévost-Paradol, on his return from an excursion he made to the south of France just about the time that the Olivier Cabinet was being formed. He had visited the invalid at Cannes, and expressed a fear that he was failing, and was not long for this world. Little did poor Paradol then think that it would be his own fate to precede to the grave one of the oldest of his colleagues in that Academy of which he himself was one of the youngest members. Mérimée has been temporarily interred in the Cannes Cemetery. All the notable persons of the place followed his body to the grave.

THE WAR.

DEFEAT OF THE ARMY OF THE LOIRE.

The Army of the Loire—as the new 13th French Army Corps, formed at Bourges, of Mobiles, Francs-Tireurs, and Papal Zouaves, is called—has already sustained a signal defeat. Last week it took the field, represented by a single division, under General Reyran, and, coming upon a Prussian detachment of less than the strength of a regiment, at Tours, compelled it to retire, leaving behind a herd of cows which it had collected by requisition. The French immediately pushed forward and occupied Dauray and Pithiviers; but on Monday morning, as General Londeur's brigade, with several companies of chasseurs, was encamped at Arthenay, it was suddenly attacked by the enemy. Arthenay is nine miles south of Tours, so that the French advance upon that place must have been exchanged for a retrograde movement previous to this affair. The attack began at 9.30, and the French were driven out of the town. General Reyran immediately took five regiments, four battalions, and an 8-pounder battery to attempt to recover the position, and the fight was kept up till 2.30, by which time the French had been driven into the forest. We are not told precisely what was the strength of either force, but the French attack at Arthenay could scarcely have been much less than 6000 men, taking the brigade to have been of the usual strength of seven battalions of 750 men each, and allowing for four companies of chasseurs of 125 men each. General Reyran's reinforcement, according to the report, must have had a strength of about 15,000 infantry, so that by the middle of the day there must have been 20,000 French engaged. The forest to which the French fell back was, of course, the Forest of Orléans, so that they must have been pushed as far as Chevilly. The German accounts of this affair inform us that the force which met the French was a composite corps, made up of troops belonging to the army of the Crown Prince, and commanded by the Bavarian General von der Tann. The French lost three guns and 2000 prisoners. A despatch from Tours announces that the Germans "occupied" Orléans on Tuesday; while a German telegram says that, "on the 11th, the army of the Loire was driven out of Orléans and across the Loire, after an engagement which lasted nine hours. Orléans was stormed. Upwards of 1000 prisoners were taken. The loss on our side was comparatively small. The 1st Bavarian Corps, the 22nd Regiment of Infantry, and a division of cavalry were engaged." The French corps was stated to be encamped on the left bank of the Loire. General Lamotte Rouge, the commander of the Army of the Loire, has been relieved of his command, and is replaced by General Aurellis de Paladine.

GERMAN VICTORY IN THE VOSGES.

A telegram from the German head-quarters at Versailles says that, "on the 6th inst., a victorious engagement was fought by Major-General Gengenfeld's brigade (Baden troops), between Raon, Etape, and St. Die, against large masses of Francs-Tireurs and detachments of French troops of the Line under General Dupré. The latter was wounded, and the enemy was dispersed." General von Gengenfeld admits a loss of 20 officers and 410 men killed and wounded. The French lost more than three times that number. Sixty officers and 600 men, unwounded, were made prisoners. The French army amounted to 14,000. We hear that, on the 10th, a fresh engagement took place between the Germans and some Francs-Tireurs near Bruyères, in the vicinity of the spot where the Baden troops gained their recent victory over the advance guard of the army of Lyons. On this occasion, it is said, fortune smiled on the French, who put thirty Prussians hors de combat.

THE SIEGE OF PARIS.

It is stated in a Berlin telegram that the chief obstacles which interfered with the conveyance of the siege guns to Paris being now removed, the commencement of operations may be looked for almost immediately. The official *Staats Anzeiger* says that operations will begin by attacking several forts, the possession of which is indispensable to provide against contingencies. Only after this will the whole town be bombarded, although the Germans would be in a position to make the bombardment precede the attack on the fortifications. Our artillery consists of the rifled 15-centimetre cannon, rifled 18-centimetre mortars, which battered Strasbourg; and of naval and coastguard guns, the projectiles of which weigh above 3 cwt.

MISCELLANEOUS WAR NEWS.

In the north and west a fresh display of activity on the part of the invaders has corresponded to their march southwards upon the Loire. A considerable force of Germans, under Prince Albert of Hohenzollern, has occupied Gisors, on the high road from Paris to Rouen, north of the Seine, and has pushed on to Andelys, twenty-five miles from that city; and, although some accounts represent them as wishing merely to levy contributions, they say themselves that they are resolved to occupy Rouen. Meanwhile, further to the north, at Montdidier, the Germans have appeared; they are even reported in the neighbourhood of Bréteuil, about twenty miles south of Amiens; and a despatch, that informs us that they do not seem determined to prosecute their design upon St. Quentin, from which they were sharply repulsed on Saturday last, states also that they are advancing towards Amiens.

At about one o'clock on Monday a Prussian force, consisting of six squadrons of cavalry, two regiments of infantry, and a battery of artillery, made a fresh attack on Cherizy, near Dreux. They encountered an energetic resistance from the inhabitants, who erected barricades in the streets, and were repulsed at six o'clock. Nevertheless, the Prussian artillery maintained their positions. A portion of Cherizy is in flames. The hamlets of Chaville, Nossange, and Brussard have been burnt. Prussian scouts have set fire to several places in the plains of Beauce, bordering on Voves.

An attack on St. Quentin, an open town, has been repulsed by the French. M. Anatole de la Forge, the Prefect, assembled the workmen, armed them with weapons by a requisition on the gunsmiths, threw up barricades, and resisted the attack for five hours. The Germans ultimately retired. M. de la Forge was wounded in the leg. He is a literary man, and well known as a writer in the *Sicile*.

Earnest and comprehensive measures have been taken within the last few days against Thionville. The investing forces have been reinforced, and a portion of the siege guns which are now at liberty through the fall of Strasbourg have been sent thither.

The siege of Verdun (hitherto only invested) has begun. The garrison consists of 4000 men.

The French fleet having re-appeared off Heligoland, the light-vessels and beacons have again been removed.

Colonel de Kahliden, commanding the 1st Regiment of Mecklenburg Dragoons, has issued a proclamation to the inhabitants of Laub and the neighbouring villages, stating that in consequence of the hostile attitude of a portion of the inhabitants towards the German troops, the slightest attack or resistance would be vigorously avenged, and that for every German soldier slain four Frenchmen, innocent or guilty, would be shot, and the neighbouring towns be made to pay a large indemnity. All arms not surrendered up to the present time must be forthwith delivered to the Mayor for transfer to the commandant. The proclamation forbids the publication of all political journals except those of Rheims.

GARIBALDI IN FRANCE.

Garibaldi has paid a visit to Tours, and has offered his services to the French Republic. He met with an enthusiastic welcome, and his offer was accepted. He has been appointed to the post of Commander-in-Chief of the irregular troops of France. Garibaldi left Tours for "the seat of war" on Wednesday; but his exact destination is not known. It is believed, however, that he will shortly be heard of in the Vosges. Garibaldi having arrived unexpectedly at Tours, no preparations had been made to receive him; but, when the fact became known, shouts were raised of "Garibaldi for ever!" "The Republic for ever!" At the request of a battalion of Francs-Tireurs, M. Glais-Bizoin embraced him in their name. To a request to escort him, Garibaldi replied that he was not accustomed to be escorted, but that they must go together to the field of battle to recover the territory of the Republic from the invader.

GENERAL DUCROT.

General Ducrot has published in the Brussels papers a vindication of his conduct in evading captivity and returning to France, after he had been included in the capitulation of Sedan. He says that after the surrender he refused to pledge himself not to serve again during the war, preferring to share the fate of the army. He was conveyed to Pont-à-Mousson, and there succeeded in giving his guards the slip, after which he escaped through the Prussian lines and returned to Paris. If this is a true account of the transaction, General Ducrot is blameless as regards the Germans. When a soldier is held as a prisoner of war, his enemy exercises his right over him to the utmost by no other titles than those of superior force and constant vigilance, and has only himself to blame if his prisoner escapes. The charge brought against the General by the Germans was, however, based on a different statement of facts. They say that he did not escape from their custody; that at Sedan they allowed him, as a concession to an officer and a gentleman, to leave the town in his own carriage on his promising to report himself at Pont-à-Mousson, and that he availed himself of the liberty thus given to get clean off. It would be well if the acts were cleared up, less for General Ducrot's sake than for that of the army in which he serves.

PROCLAMATION BY M. GAMBETTA.

M. GAMBETTA, Minister of the Interior in the Paris Government of Defence, who has left Paris per balloon, and arrived in Tours, has issued the following proclamation, dated Oct. 9, addressed to the citizens of the departments:—

By order of the Republican Government, I have left Paris, to convey to you the hopes of the Parisian people, and the instructions and orders of those who accepted the mission of delivering France from the foreigner.

For seventeen days Paris has been invested, and offers the spectacle of two millions of men who, forgetting all differences to range themselves around the Republic flag, will disappoint the expectations of the invader, who reckoned upon civil discord. The Revolution found Paris without cannon and without arms. Now 400,000 National Guards are armed, 100,000 Mobiles have been summoned, and 60,000 regular troops are assembled. The foundries cast cannon, the women make one million cartridges daily. The National Guards have two mitrailleurs for each battalion. Field-pieces are being made for sorties against the besiegers. The forts are manned by marines, and are furnished with marvellous artillery, served by the first gunners in the world. Up till now their fire has prevented the enemy from establishing the smallest work. The encinte, which on Sept. 4 had only 500 cannon, has now 3800, with 400 rounds of ammunition for each. The casting of projectiles continues with ardour. Everyone is at the post assigned to him for fighting. The encinte is uninterruptedly covered by the National Guard, who, from morning until night, drill for the war with patriotism and steadiness. The experience of these improvised soldiers increases daily. Behind the encinte there is a third line of defence, formed of barricades, behind which the Parisians are bound to defend the Republic—the genius of street fighting. All this has been executed with calmness and order by the concurrence and enthusiasm of all. It is not a vain illusion that Paris is impregnable. It cannot be captured nor surprised.

Two other means remain to the Prussians—sedition and famine. But sedition will not arise, nor famine either. Paris, by placing herself on rations, has enough to defy the enemy for long months, thanks to the provisions which have been accumulated, and will bear restraint and scarcity with manly constancy in order to afford her brothers in the departments time to gather. Such is, without disguise, the state of Paris. This state imposes great duties upon you. The first is to have no other occupation than the war; the second is to accept fraternally the supremacy of the Republican power, emanating from necessity and right, which will serve no ambition. It has no other passion than to rescue France from the abyss into which monarchy has plunged her. This done, the Republic will be founded, sheltered against conspirators and reactionists. Therefore I have the order, without taking into account difficulties or opposition, to remedy and, although time fails, to make up by activity the shortcomings caused by delay. Men are not wanting. What has failed us has been a decisive resolution and the consecutive execution of our plans. That which failed us after the shameful capitulation of Sedan was arms. All supplies of this nature had been sent on to Sedan, Metz, and Strasbourg, as if, one would think, the authors of our disaster, by a last criminal combination, had desired at their fall to deprive us of all means of repairing our ruin. Steps have now been taken to obtain rifles and equipments from all parts of the world. Neither workmen nor funds are wanting. We must bring to bear all our resources, which are immense; we must make the provinces shake off their torpor, react against foolish panics, multiply our partisans, offer traps and ambushes to harass the enemy, and inaugurate a national war. The Republic demands the co-operation of all. It will utilise the courage of all its citizens, employ the capabilities of each, and, according to its traditional policy, will make young men its chiefs. Heaven itself will cease to favour our adversaries; the autumn rains will come, and detained and held in check by the capital, far from their homes, troubled and anxious for the future, the Prussians will be decimated one by one by our arms, by hunger, and by Nature.

No; it is not possible that the genius of France should be forever obscured; it cannot be that a great nation shall let its place in the world be taken from it by an invasion of 500,000 men. Up, then, and in a mass, and let us die rather than suffer the shame of dismemberment. In the midst of our disasters we have still the sentiment left of French unity and the indivisibility of the Republic. Paris, surrounded by the enemy, affirms more loudly and more gloriously than ever the immortal device which is dictated to the whole of France:—

"Long live the Republic! Long live France! Long live the Republic, one and indivisible."

THE VICEROY OF INDIA.—A special telegram from Calcutta states that the Viceroy entered Jaipore at seven on Wednesday morning. The procession of nobles and their retainers was a mile long, and included eighty elephants. Troops lined the road for miles. The Viceroy and the Maharajah entered on a state elephant. I was a magnificent spectacle. The Darbar would be held at one o'clock, on account of the return visit of the Viceroy. Abdul Rahman has been arrested in Turkey. The Ameer has asked the King of Bokhara to surrender himself.

MUSIC.

The Beethoven selection at last Saturday's Crystal Palace Concert comprised only the symphony No. 2, which was played with great refinement and power. Why this work stood alone, when so many of the master's compositions were available, we cannot tell; but the audience had little reason to complain of want of excellence in the balance of the programme. No fewer than three overtures were given—to wit, Rossini's "Siege of Corinth," Dr. Sterndale Bennett's "Paradise and the Peri," and Mendelssohn's "Midsummer Night's Dream." The first and last are so well known that criticism upon them is unnecessary. Dr. Bennett's work, on the other hand, might with advantage be more familiar. Written for the Philharmonic Society, some years ago, it has an occasional hearing at the concerts given by that institution. Elsewhere the overture is ignored; and even at the Crystal Palace, down to last Saturday, it had never been played. This is how we encourage native talent! While, at the same time, we give fifth or sixth rate foreigners every opportunity to hoist themselves into public favour. When shall we cease to look upon our own musicians as unworthy to tie the foreigners' shoes? Dr. Bennett's charming programme-music, in which the main incidents of Moore's poem are described with a vividness leaving nothing to desire, was well played and received with all the favour usually shown to good things coming from an unexpected quarter. The vocalists were Madame Vanzini, who sang "Robert, toi que j'aime" and Sullivan's "Birds in the night;" Signor Foli, who was recalled after giving Meyerbeer's "Monk;" and a young Swedish-American, Mr. Nordblom, who possesses a strong, hard tenor voice and a style needing greater cultivation. The débutant sang "In native worth" and "When other lips," but made no impression in either.

Two concerts, chiefly of national and war songs, were given on Wednesday evening—one at St. James's Hall, on behalf of the German Association for the Sick and Wounded; the other at the Crystal Palace, where 4000 chorists, directed by Mr. G. W. Martin, sang the martial airs both of France and Germany, with a special composition in honour of Italy. Madame Jenny Lind was to have appeared at St. James's Hall, and every place was taken in consequence. But "sore throat" intervened, and the late Swedish Nightingale became conspicuously by her absence, to the evident disappointment of an eager public. The audience, however, had enough for their money. Madame Rudersdorf sang a new song—words by herself, music by Herr Randegger—entitled "Vorwaerts," and roused her hearers to enthusiasm. Mdlle. Drasil also sang, as did Mr. Nordblom. Herr Hilde, Herr Benedict, and Herr Goldschmidt appeared as solo pianists; Herr Ries and Herr Richard Hammer were solo violinists; four ladies played something on the feeble, tinkling zither; Herr Waldmann delivered recitations in honour of "Fatherland;" and the "United German Gesangsvereine" delivered, in rough though hearty fashion, "Die Wacht am Rhein" and other national airs. The hall was enthusiastic with everything; but whether the introduction of German war-songs by Germans in the midst of a neutral city engaged in giving hospitality to thousands of refugee French was an act of good taste may fairly be questioned.

NEW MUSIC.

Drarily Drift the Shadows. Ballad. Words and Music by CLARIBEL. London: Boosey and Co.

As might be gathered from the title, this is a melancholy song, its burden being the weariness of a wanderer over "earth's dreary desert." There is a place, however, in this chequered existence of ours for such a theme, and poor Claribel's ballad will touch many a heart. The music, written for a contralto voice, is simple, tuneful, and not without an appropriate sadness. Key, B flat major.

Friendship and Love. Ballad. Words and Music by CLARIBEL. London: Boosey and Co.

Claribel's music is here attuned to a more cheerful strain, and sings of earth's greatest blessings with appropriate vivacity. Nothing could be more unpretending than the melody and its accompaniment, in respect of which the true conditions of ballad-writing are strictly observed. The voice written for is soprano, with a compass which will be found inconveniently great. Key, E flat major.

Sweet Birdie Mine. Song. Written and Composed by ALFRED B. ALLEN. London: Boosey and Co.

In the absence of her lover, "now on the deep blue sea," a lady talks to her bird, and bids it sing the song of happier days, ending by wishing she herself were a bird, able to sit "on that tree, near yonder sea," and warble of true devotion. Such is the fantastic subject of Mr. Allen's song; and far be it from us to say that no hearts will be found responsive to its strains. There is merit in the music; above all, a power of expression in the melody, shown by delicate but efficient touches, which calls for warm recognition. The accompaniment is an agreeable change from the regulation forms adopted by those who suffer from poverty of invention. Key, A flat major; voice, soprano or tenor.

She Sang to Her Harp. Song. Written and Composed by ALFRED B. ALLEN. London: R. Cocks and Co.

We have here another extravagant story; and are asked to believe that a maiden waited for death on the tomb of her lover, relieving the monotony of the intervening hours by playing her harp. In due time death came, and the priest laid her down to rest with the harp upon her breast. The lady was distraught, of course, a belief in which we are confirmed by the burden of her song:—

Oh, 'neath this stone he sleeps in peace,
Reigning above where sorrows cease.

How the dead man could sleep below and also reign above passes us to conceive. The music, written for soprano or tenor, in A flat major, with arpeggio accompaniment, is such as we cannot praise. It lacks both originality and interest.

Variations for the Pianoforte on the Old English Air "Drink to me only." Composed by WESTLEY RICHARDS. London: Lamborn Cocks and Co.

It would be superfluous to praise the beautiful melody Mr. Richards has varied. Everybody knows and loves it, and every amateur pianist will be glad to have it in the form before us, especially as the composer has done his work with far more than average skill. All the variations are clearly written upon the model set by Mozart in so many elegant pieces of the kind. We congratulate Mr. Richards upon his success.

AID TO SICK AND WOUNDED IN THE WAR.—The ladies' committee of the National Society for Aid to the Sick and Wounded, in reply to the numerous applications which have been made to them for some information respecting the distribution of the various goods that have been sent to them from all parts of the country, state that during the last month 2000 bales and cases have been transmitted abroad. They have been sent to numerous hospitals in the neighbourhood of the Rhine and in the northern districts of France, viz.:—Aix-la-Chapelle, Cologne, Coblentz, Mayence, Darmstadt, Lille, Ambr, Cambrai, Amiens, &c. In order further to facilitate this distribution, depôts have been established by the society at Boulogne, Arlon, and Saarbrück, whence stores are forwarded to all the surrounding districts, according to their respective requirements; the two latter supplying the numerous small hospitals and ambulances in the vicinity of the recent battle fields round Metz and Sedan. The liberality of contributors has enabled the ladies' committee to comply with the large demands daily made upon them; and they have the satisfaction of knowing that the stores sent out are fully appreciated and gratefully received. The bales and cases have contained every variety of articles of clothing and bedding, medical and surgical comforts and appliances, chloroform, wine, preserved food, &c. The demand for old linen, bandages, and charpie has greatly diminished lately. The articles now chiefly asked for and sent out consist of warm woollen clothing of all kinds, blankets, air and water beds and cushions, preserved food, wine, and disinfectants.

A FEARFUL ATLANTIC VOYAGE.

A FEW days ago much uneasiness was felt for the safety of the Guion Company's splendid steamer Nebraska, which was several days overdue, with the mails, passengers, and a cargo consisting of 80,488 bushels of wheat, 434 bales of cotton, and 58,300 lb. of cheese from New York. The ship has reached the Mersey, after one of the most eventful voyages on record. The following account of the passage will be read with interest, as showing the narrow escape the ship had from such a fate as that which befell the London or the Amazon.

The Nebraska, James Guard, commander, sailed from New York on the morning of Friday, Sept. 16, at ten a.m., and discharged her pilot at noon the same day off Sandy Hook. All were in good spirits on board until the evening of Sunday, the 18th ult., about eleven o'clock, when there arose a very strong breeze from the south-east (the prevailing wind since leaving New York), with a very heavy swell from the south-west. At midnight the wind greatly increased in force, but still all had every confidence in the ship and her commander. About two o'clock on the morning of Monday, the 19th, the wind had increased to a terrific gale from the east-south-east to south-east, with very heavy squalls of wind and rain and a tremendous sea, the vessel shipping large quantities of water on deck. No words could adequately describe the terrible force of the gale or the angry nature of the sea at this time. All due precaution, however, had been taken before this to prevent the water from forcing itself into the engine-room, stoke-hole, or any part of the ship under the main deck. Every moment increased the strength of the wind and sea; nearly all the sails were rendered useless in a few seconds, the ship rolling very heavily at the time, and shipping much water. At six a.m. the gale was still increasing and the sea breaking over the bridge-deck; and at seven a.m. the chief engineer reported to the captain that the engine-room and stoke-hole were fast filling with water, and that it was utterly impossible to get it out, owing to the cargo commencing to shift and the ship beginning to list. More disastrous news could not come to the ears of a commander of a steam-ship, and he at once tried to get her on the port tack, but it was impossible. At eight a.m. the gale still increased, with a heavy sea breaking over the ship from stem to stern, and with such force as to burst open the saloon doors and snap the strong iron bars which secured the same as if they had been so many pipe-stems, and flooding the saloon with water. At every roll the vessel gave the quantity of water she took on board was something frightful. At eleven a.m. the cargo shifted to a much greater extent than before, heaving the ship down on her port side, with lee-deck under water, it still blowing a heavy gale, and the sea coming on board with terrible force, making a clean breach over the ship, filling the engine-room and stoke-hole with water and putting all the fires out in the furnaces, washing away port life-boats Nos. 4, 6, and 8, topgallant bulwarks fore and aft, lamp-rooms, boatswain and carpenter's room, stowage water-closets, and every movable thing on deck. The wind now suddenly shifted to the north-west, blowing terrifically, the vessel continually shipping great quantities of water, sea after sea striking her with such force as to make one think it impossible for any ship to withstand any one of the shocks. The gallant vessel was now at the mercy of the wind and waves, and too well could those on board realise the loss of the ill-fated London. To add to the already numerous disasters, the most terrible of all cries on board ship arose—"Fire!" On examination it proved to be the woodwork behind the boiler on the starboard side, the boilers having become so heated as to ignite the casings. The chief engineer, with one of the firemen, in attempting to get the fire hose along, was thrown against the after steam winch, and fractured his left arm; another sea swept him along the alley-ways between the deck houses, and he was picked up quite insensible. On being restored by the surgeon, he resumed his duty, though suffering great pain. The hose having been promptly put on, the fire in a short time was supposed to have been extinguished. During all this trying time the captain, in giving his orders, was as cool and quick as any man could be, thus giving confidence to all around him. Towards midnight the wind moderated, but the vessel still shipped immense quantities of water, which washed away portions of the woodwork on deck.

On the morning of Tuesday, the 20th, the wind was strong, and a tremendous sea running, the ship still on her beam-ends; everyone on board (including captain and officers) was employed trimming cargo, and getting the water out of the engine-room and stoke-hole. About eleven a.m., a fearful cry arose that the ship was again on fire. It proved to be only too true, and of a terrible nature, the coals in the bunkers on the starboard side being in a perfect blaze. Orders were immediately given for the firehose to be played on the burning mass, but the water was so high in the engine-room that the engineers could not get steam on the donkey-engine. The decks were torn up in several places on the starboard side to gain admittance to the fire, the hand-pump was brought into requisition, and fire-buckets were passed rapidly from hand to hand. The position of the ship can be well understood when it is considered that the supply of water for the buckets was got from the lee side of the deck, officers and all hands working for hours without rest or intermission. The panic among the passengers was at one time very great. The conduct of the captain and his officers was beyond all praise. The chief officer seriously injured himself by falling on an axe, severely cutting his right arm; but, after being dressed by the surgeon, was as prompt and energetic as before. The smoke from the fire was so suffocating a nature that the men could hardly withstand it for more than two or three minutes at a time; but, being cheered and led on by the example of Captain Guard and officers, they worked well. Captain Guard, at great risk of his life, made his way forward to the fire, and, having exerted himself below for a few minutes, came up again on deck, almost suffocated. On being remonstrated with before going down, he replied, in his quaint way, "Ah, it's all very well!" and immediately ordered fresh apertures to be made in the deck, in

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order to work with greater facility at the fire; all hands, without distinction, carrying water to try and extinguish the flames. All on board now fully expected that they would have to take to the remaining boats for safety. The purser, prepared for every contingency, had ordered provisions to be got up ready from the store-room for this last desperate resource (the vessel being then 673 miles from New York); but, animated by the captain and officers, the crew renewed their exertions, the passengers doing all in their power to assist, and, after several hours of hard labour, the fire was extinguished. All hands were then ordered down to trim cargo and get the water out of the engine-room. Towards midnight the wind calmed down, but still there was the same heavy sea. Being still unable to get steam on the donkey-engine to pump the water out, the work was done by hand through without intermission, part of the crew at the same time trimming the cargo to get the ship upright. About eight o'clock in the morning of the 21st, a four-masted steamer bound west, distant about six miles, was sighted, when the crew went aft to the captain, and asked him what he intended to do with the ship, as they thought she was not then seaworthy, nor fit to proceed on her voyage to Liverpool. The captain's reply to them was that as long as she floated or a plank remained of her he would not desert her, nor would he allow any of them to do so. After much persuasion they resumed duty. Towards evening steam was got on the donkey-engine, and with its valuable aid the water was pumped out of the engine-room and stoke-hole in much greater quantities, thus enabling them to light the port fires, the starboard boilers being badly injured. At five a.m. on the 22nd the engines were moved ahead with steam on two boilers only, all hands trimming ship and clearing away the debris of the storm. Towards evening a light favourable wind sprang up, and all possible sail was set, and those which were lost were replaced. Again there was an alarm of fire, but it was soon extinguished. On Friday the 23rd, all hands were again employed in trimming the ship, in order to get her upright, as she was still on her beam ends, there being a fresh breeze and clear weather. On the 24th and 25th the wind was light and the weather foggy; the crew still employed in trimming cargo, and the ship gradually getting upright. Moderate weather was experienced from the above dates up to the morning of the 4th inst., when land was sighted, the steamer arriving at Liverpool on the 6th, with the grateful thanks of all on board to a merciful Providence, who had guided the vessel through so much peril.

It is only common justice to the commander of the Nebraska and all the officers who so ably assisted him in time of danger to mention their respective names, which are as follow:—James Guard, commander; Henry Bethell, chief officer; George Jordan, second officer; Peter Grant, third officer; David Williams, fourth officer; James McMahon, surgeon; Robert George Evans, purser; Edward Bolton, assistant purser; James Redmond, chief steward; John Alexander, chief engineer; Joseph Glover, second engineer; John Bradford, third engineer; William McLelland, fourth engineer; and Griffith Hughes, fifth engineer.

THE LONDON GAZETTE.
FRIDAY, OCT. 7.
BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.—W. COLES, Harbury Warwick.
BANKRUPT.—J. CARTER, Camden Town, builder.—B. MORRIS, Nottingham, bedstead manufacturer.—G. WILLY, Hatton-garden, dealer in precious stones.—F. and R. BAKER, Lowestoft, iron and brass founders.—J. E. CLARK, East Stonehouse, Devon, licensed victualler.—J. BROWN and G. LEACH, Halifax, joiners.—J. CRIPPS, Filkins, Oxfordshire, alehouse keeper.—J. EDMONDSON, B. J. W. WHITEHEAD, and J. H. ALBERTY, Blackburn, Lancashire, drapers.—J. FETHERTON, Henley-on-Avon, hotel-keeper.—G. KIMBLE, Great Grimby, grocer.—B. MATTHEWMAN, junior, Sheffield, stonemason.—H. POWNEY, Leicester, elastic web manufacturer.—W. H. ROBERTS, Newton Abbot, draper.—B. TAYLOR, Chadwell, ironmonger.—J. WILKS, Exchange-street, St. Helen's, grocer.—T. WEICH, Liverpool, merchant.
SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—W. ADAMS, Montrose, grain and flour merchant.—J. CHALMERS, New City road, Glasgow, baker.—W. DUNCAN, Exeter, cloth draper.—T. A. and J. A. and A. SCULLER, wood merchants, Kilmarnock.

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Checks, made of bright Italian Silk, with a warranty for wear,
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quality of Silk, and really wears well, at 2s. 6d. the yard. Also
richest Black Moires, yard wide, 10s. 6d. per yard. Patterns
sent.

WIDE VELVETEENS, bright and soft
Silk, sacrificed at 2s. 6d.; usually sold at 4s. 6d. per
yard. Patterns sent.
HARVEY and CO.,
Lambeth House, Westminster Bridge.

**AUTUMN, 1870.—Z. SIMPSON and
COMPANY** have been able, during the unsettled state
of the markets of the past six weeks, to arrange several large and
particularly advantageous purchases of SILK, DRESS, and
FANCY GOODS, which they are now offering; also all Goods
of the past season, at the greatly-reduced prices determined
upon at their just completed half-yearly stock-taking.
Included above are many of the cheapest goods Z. S. and Co.
have ever offered.
65 and 66 (late 48, 49, 50, and 53), Farringdon-street, City.

WOOL OPERA CLOAKS.
Z. SIMPSON and COMPANY are selling, THIS DAY,
a large parcel at less than half price.
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NICHOLSON'S NEW SILKS FOR 1870.
Patterns of £10,000 post-free.
Striped Silks, from the Dress 1 5 6
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Wedding Silks, from " 2 2 0
Swiss Silks, from " 1 5 6
Evening Silks, from " 1 8 6
Dinner Silks, from " 2 10 0
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D. Nicholson and Co., 50 to 52, St. Paul's-churchyard.

CAUTION.—Patterns Free per Post.
D. NICHOLSON and CO. beg to inform their Customers and
Ladies generally that from their House alone can Patterns of all
the New Silks, Black and Coloured, Japanese Silks, Cambrics and
all kinds of Dress Fabrics, be obtained, arranged on the new Regis-
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are invited to write for patterns.
D. Nicholson and Co., 50 to 52, St. Paul's-churchyard.
Now ready (One Shilling), No. 130.

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1s. 11d. per yard.**

**R. SANDS, Importer of Madeira
Embroideries, Finest Needlework Edgings and In-
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**BABY LINEN.
UNDERCLOTHING.
DRESSING GOWNS.
BREAKFAST DRESSES.**
A Manufacturer's
Stock,
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£2500,
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Reduced Prices.
Catalogues post-free.
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for Ladies' Underclothing, equal to fine hand-sewn em-
broidery, at one fourth the cost. Patterns and prices
free per post. See "Englishwoman's Magazine,"
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**BURGESS, DRESS FACTOR and
IMPORTER.**
137, OXFORD-STREET.
Patterns free.

FRENCH MARKETS.—We have availed
ourselves of the unsettled state of these
MARKETS owing to the existing WAR,
and have secured advantageously several
stocks (made expressly for the present
season), from manufacturers of Roubaix
and Paris. We annex a few of the leading
novelties and

SPECIALTIES.

SATINE DE LAINE, all Wool, in thirty-
two new shades, 15s. 6d. Full Dress, con-
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SILK WARP MELANGE, several hundred
pieces, made expressly for Parisian
Costumes, 16s. 9d. the Full Dress. Pat-
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FRENCH MERINOS, a most important
purchase, possibly the last importation
we shall be able to secure, the richest and
most brilliant colours, 1s. 11d. per yard,
double width. Patterns free.

FRENCH FLANNELS, introduced by us
to this market in September, 1868; light,
soft, and warm, reduced to 1s. 6d. per
yard. Patterns free.

FRENCH WOOL REPPS, the most Useful
and effective Autumn Dress, 10s. 9d. the
Full Dress. Patterns free.

FRENCH SILK EPINGLEES.—The
Roubaix Manufacture, the Richest and
Widest Quality produced, 31s. 6d. the Full
Dress, real value, £2 12s. 6d. Patterns free.

FIGURED WOOL SATINES, particularly
recommended and adapted for young
ladies and country wear, 3s. 11d. the Full
Dress. Patterns free.

HABIT CLOTHS, one of the most durable
Dresses of the day, 12s. 9d. the Full Dress.
Patterns free.

DRAP FRITZ (Registered). Our Autumn
Speciality in the New Shades of Grey,
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an endless variety of pretty Neutral
Tints.

BLACK VELVETEENS, Lyons Finish,
Silk Face, prepared expressly for this
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COLOURED VELVETEEN, SILK FACED,
in every new Colour for the present
season. Patterns free.

ROYAL CLOTH for Costumes and Dresses,
16s. 9d. the Full Dress. Patterns free.

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in every possible Tint, including the
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THERA RAYEE.—A pretty Autumn
Material for Juvenile Costume; strong,
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COSTUME,** the Novelty of the Season,
21s. 6d. the Costume. N.B.—This article
is waterproof. Patterns free.

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LADIES' ELASTIC SUPPORTING BANDS
for use before and after Accouchement; also
Elastic Stockings and Knee Caps
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**MOORE and HUNTON, Cabinetmakers
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Finsbury-square, London, beg to announce the
completion of their new warehouses, containing
upwards of Forty thousand Square Feet of
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**MOORE and HUNTON have in stock a
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various woods and styles, prices varying from
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Selection of LIBRARY, HALL, OFFICE, and
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MAKERS and UPHOLSTERERS, Paul-street
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Established upwards of Forty Years.**

**FILMER and SONS' Easy-Chairs, Couches,
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The "Civil Service Gazette" remarks:—"By a thorough
knowledge of the natural laws which govern the operations of
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EPPS'S COCOA.

BREAKFAST.—EPPS'S COCOA.
The very agreeable character of this preparation has
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